THE TIMES  
Tomorrow

**Pop**  
Madhur Jaffrey, first of four guest cooks, on vegetarian cooking.

**Pop**  
Penny Perrick tunes into the stalwarts of Barry Manilow's international fan club.



**Pits**  
Spectrum looks at the mammoth effort to repair the damage to Yorkshire's new coalfield.

**Privatization**  
Will contractors really clean up on hospitals' dirty washing? Part two of our series on privatization.

**Progress**  
Lord Harris of High Cross pleads for an end to the laws that impede economic advance.

## TV plea of innocence by Marcos

President Marcos of the Philippines went on television to deny responsibility for the death of Benigno Aquino, and blame both the opposition and the foreign press for giving his Government bad publicity. The President's opponents pledged to continue Mr Aquino's campaign for non-violent reform.

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## The Libya card

Israeli intelligence material on Libyan intentions in Africa is helping the Begin Government's rapprochement with Black Africa. Libya's main demand for resuming diplomatic relations was the sharing of the Mossad dossier on Libyan activities.

Page 4

## Burnt sculpture

A decision is expected today on whether to rebuild a South Bank sculpture made of 6,000. A man is being treated in hospital for severe burns.

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## Pound rises

The pound closed 1.1 cents up against the dollar at \$1.5290. Shares continued their record run with the FT index closing 4.7 up at 740.4.

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## Wembley circus

Professional (Rugby Union) teams representing England, Wales, Australia and New Zealand could be playing at Wembley early next year in the first games of a "circus" involving 200 leading players.

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## Ojukwu loses

Mr Ojukwu, the former Biafran leader, failed to make a political comeback in Nigeria when he was defeated in his attempt to become a federal senator.

Page 4

## Women at risk

Sexual harassment at work is causing women physical and mental illness, lost promotion, forcing them to leave their jobs and sometimes causing their dismissal, a TUC report says.

Page 3

## Stud chance

Share Dancer, the Arab-owned Classic winner, is to be syndicated for a probable world record sum, and will stand at stud near Newmarket.

Page 19

**Leader page 9**  
Letters: On Soviet imperialism, from Mr Correlli Barnett; privatization, from Mr G. C. Ingram; religious broadcasting, from Mr John Whitney.

**Leading articles:** International Development Association, the Philippines; breakfast television.

**Features, pages 6-8**  
Greater control of public utilities; Israel's return to international favour; rocking to rule in Hungary; Spectrum: how doomed monkeys mean big business; Fashion, the marriage of pop and punk.

**Computer Horizons, page 13;**  
Big US-Scotish terminal deal for banks; finding jobs by electronics.

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## 40ft dining car crushed into 6ft wreckage by impact

## Irish train disaster on fail-safe system

From Richard Ford, Kildare

An investigation into the train crash in the Irish Republic on Sunday night in which seven people were killed began last night. Ten passengers were seriously hurt and another 40 are being treated in hospital.

The investigators will have to find whether the accident was caused by human error or the breakdown of a supposedly fail-safe centralized signalling system, and a back-up procedure intended to prevent accidents of this kind.

The accident, involving a train from Galway to Dublin and a stationary train from Tralee, Co Kerry, occurred on a piece of track where the special automatic warning system, similar to that run by British Rail, has operated for six years.

The inquiry will want to discover how it was unable to prevent the collision between two trains, each crowded with 500 passengers.

The system is controlled from a central unit at Dublin's Connolly station, which monitors train movements on that section of track.

The inquiry will also want to discover if reports that the train from Tralee had run out of diesel fuel are true and whether the guard on the train had had time to place the first of three warning detonators behind the carriages before the crash occurred.

The train from Co Kerry had been affected by mechanical failure early in its journey but had managed to reach Mallow, Co Cork, where its engine was changed. It was running 20 minutes late by the time it reached Cherryville.

If the fail-safe system had been working properly Mr Peter Brady, driver of the Galway train, should have stopped at a red signal at Monasterevin. The inquiry will want to know why the driver did not stop if the

Continued on back page, col 7

## £250m EEC plan to streamline coal

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The EEC has proposed that at least £250m be allocated in its next budget to modernize the European coal industry and to reduce the massive coal stocks lying in Common Market pits and power stations.

News of the grant, proposed by the Common Market Executive Commission, comes on the eve of Mr Ian MacGregor's chairmanship of the National Coal Board and adds to speculation that 65,000 jobs are at risk in the British coal industry.

Mr MacGregor is expected to quickly implement the recommendations made by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to close high-cost pits and to concentrate on the new, low-cost developments such as the Selby coalfield.

The Selby field is broadly similar to those in the United States with which Mr MacGregor has direct experience through his connections with AMAX, the mineral and mining group. It is pits like this which Mr MacGregor believes could lead to a viable future for the industry.

Mr MacGregor takes over as NCB chairman on September 1 and is already studying plans which might reverse the industry's declining profitability and market share which have led to suggestions that a 10 per cent in capacity is needed.

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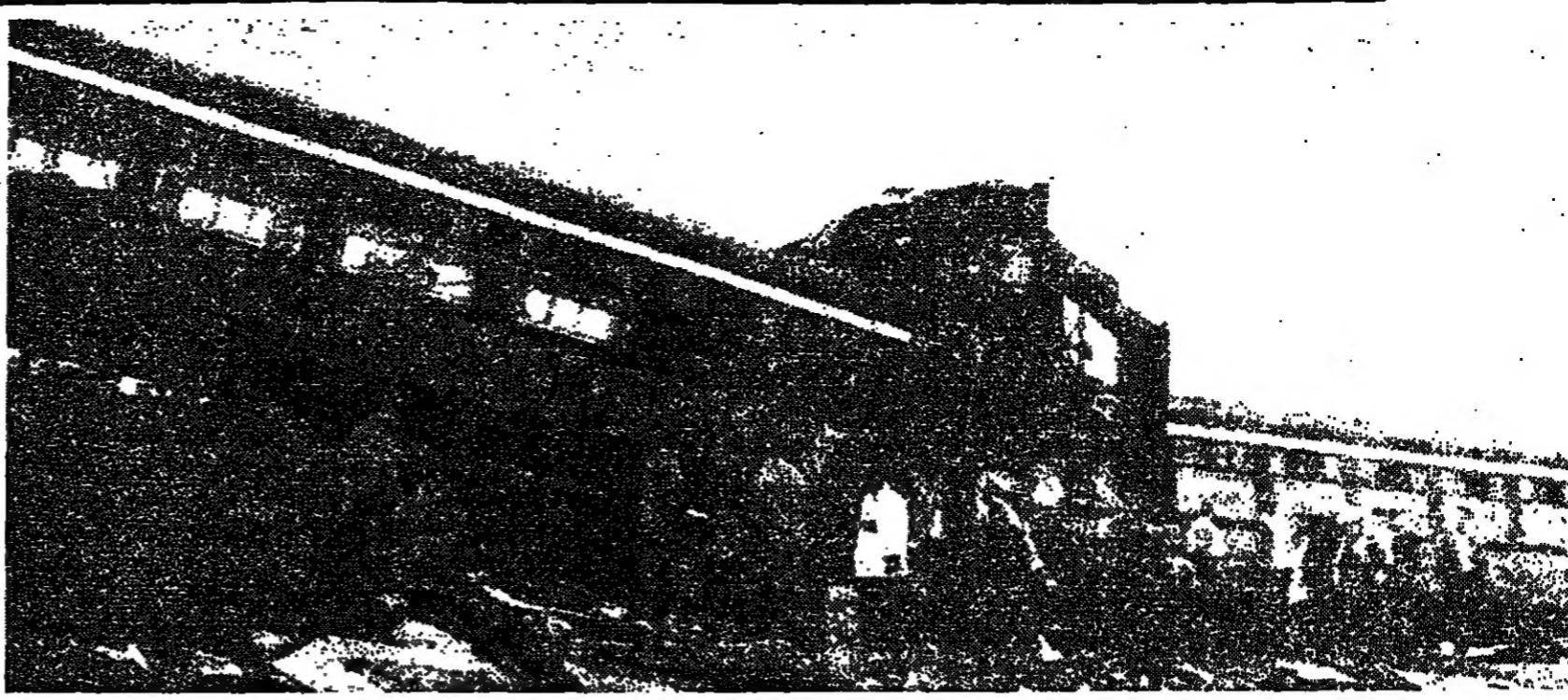
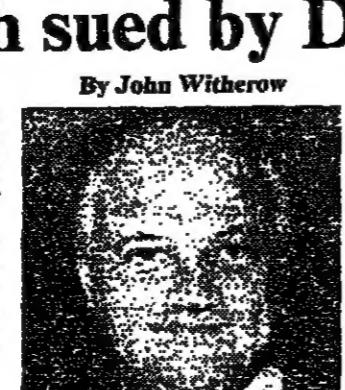
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The telescoped dining car in which seven passengers died in the crash at Cherryville

## Defence cuts 'have left Navy weak'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy has been so badly cut back that it no longer has the balance needed for general maritime operations, it is claimed today.

The damage done by the 1981 review of defence spending was so great that "even with the re-activations forced on the Government" by the Falklands conflict, the fleet shows severe defects in many kinds of operation.

Because of the Navy's weakness, only two major ports could be kept open in the face of a sustained minelaying campaign by an enemy country. Present policies might mean that the UK could not meet its commitments to the North Atlantic alliance.

These claims are made by the editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships* in the forward to the latest edition of the definitive study of world navies, published today.

Captain John Moore, in a wide-ranging attack on the policies imposed on the Navy in recent years, says that the 1981 Defence Review conducted by Sir John Nott showed "a lamentable failure to appreciate the role of seapower in affairs of state". He accused the Government of "the emasculation of the Royal Navy's ships and support".

Among the specific points made by Captain Moore in the foreword to the 1983-84 edition are:

(1) The effectiveness of the nuclear-powered submarine force may be inhibited in the future by lack of numbers and by limited refitting capacity.

(2) The design of the planned new diesel-powered submarine, the 2400, "lags behind those of other European builders".

The commission claimed that wage increases reflected collective bargaining pressures, not operating losses and mounting coal stocks.

A return to more localized wage negotiations is among options being considered by Mr MacGregor as is a review of the joint management-union-government proposals for the development of the industry after the 1974 national strike.

Implementing the closure programme that has already been suggested by the NCB and the National Union of Miners workers would lead to the loss of 65,000 jobs and, according to the Monopolies Commission, have a serious social effect on the more depressed areas of the country.

The latest EEC proposals would lead to £50m being spent in each of the next five years to support the modernization of coal mines in Europe and on meeting the cost of closure programmes. Another £75m would be spent next year to finance the indirect costs of running down coal stocks from their record levels.

*Jane's Fighting Ships, 1983-84*, (Jane's Publishing Company, £55).

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## Victory '83 fits wings to its keel

By Barry Pickthall

Peter de Savary, the millionaire heading the Victory syndicate, Britain's challenge for the America's Cup, joined the controversy surrounding the radical winged keel on Australia II by having wings fitted to his own 12-metre yesterday for the final race against the Australian yacht in the semi-final challenge series.

The design of the wings is the result of tests by designer Ian Howlett at Southampton in January last year before being evaluated on Australia. The Victory trial horse bought after the last cup series. A spokesman said that the fins which improve the lift generated by the foil and thus the angle that the yacht can sail to the wind, had made a dramatic difference to the performance of Australia.

The decision now to add similar wings to Victory '83 brought an immediate response from the United States Yacht Racing Union (USYRU), warning that the yacht may not now be a legal 12-metre. An hour earlier measurer Mark Vintury, the American member of the three-man international measurement committee, had been called to the Victory dock to give a confidential ruling on the modifications.

Before leaving, he agreed that the fixed fins, which have no effect on the yacht's displacement, were indeed legal. However, shortly afterwards Peter de Savary received a letter from the American measurer saying that he was of the opinion that these wings "mark a peculiarity" and felt obliged to inform the USYRU.

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# Councillors group attacks Steel over his management of party

The Association of Liberal Councillors yesterday criticized as "profoundly undemocratic" the way in which Mr David Steel managed the party in the run-up to the general election in June.

In particular it cites the drawing up of the Social Democratic Party-liberal Alliance manifesto and choosing Roy Jenkins as Prime Minister-designate.

The attack comes at a sensitive time for the Liberal leader. Last week *The Times* reported that Mr Steel was expected to resign the leadership if next month's assembly at Harrogate takes away his right of veto over the election manifesto.

In a strongly worded submission prepared for the assembly the associations also accuse the liberal leadership of a lack of commitment to the strategy laid down by earlier members.

"Many campaigning local Liberals have felt a clear difference between their own work and that of the national party during the past 13 years," the association says.

The association, with more than 2,000 members, claims Liberal successes at seats such as Yeovil, Gordon, Leeds West, and Southwark, Bermondsey are the result of the same

"campaigning approach" which has earned the party a substantial power base in cities and metropolitan areas.

Mr Trevor Jones, of Dorchester, the association chairman, says: "There is a real danger that the Liberal Party will spend too much time on internal navel-gazing and nit-picking of its constitution."

He wants the assembly to come out with a renewed commitment to the creation of a campaigning party.

"It is time for the national institutions of the party, and its leaders both inside and outside Parliament, to understand that it is their job to provide the campaigning leadership and commitment which is needed."

In a rebuff for Mr Steel, the association expresses dissatisfaction about the Alliance which, it says, cannot continue in its present form.

"We are unhappy about the failure to put forward a clear programme of radical reform at the election. But the concern is with the effect of the Alliance on the mechanics of decision-making, and the presentation, as well as with the content," the association says.

The way in which the joint programme and Prime Minister designate were determined was profoundly undemocratic. The

way in which the Alliance has operated on the ground has resulted in a lot of wasted time and energies, and in some cases reduced our effectiveness and public impact.

"We must not approach another general election with similar mistakes or with another arbitrary seat allocation process."

The association maintains that the continued existence of two separate Alliance parties cannot be sustained in the long run. It calls for a democratization of the structures of the Alliance at a national level and encouragement of integration at a local level.

The association intends to ask its own members to support a programme that will promote joint Liberal/SDP council groups and allow associate membership of the association for SDP members. It also supports the principle of joint selection of candidates for European Parliament elections.

The document adds that it is important that moves towards what it describes as an "organic merger" should be optional. "Integration should be encouraged where Liberals and Social Democrats want it."

Mr Steel's high standing with the electorate is the subject of an indirect warning by the association.

## TUC affiliation fees to increase by 26%

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The TUC is increasing its affiliation fees by 26 per cent in order to stave off a deficit of £300,000 this year and mounting financial problems thereafter. Delegates to next month's Trades Union Congress in Blackpool will be asked to approve a two-stage rise in per capita payments from the existing level of 47.5p to 60p a year. Even this will mean a reduction in the labour movement's reserves.

Details of the TUC's financial position were published for the first time yesterday, and they disclose a gloomy picture of falling membership, rising expenditure and a tight squeeze on services to members.

The TUC general council's report to Congress states that if membership affiliation fees do not rise, there would be a net deficit this year of £300,000, bringing the movement's administration fund down to about £300,000.

Expenditure in 1983 is expected to be £5,150,000, a record, as the trade union centre spends more on its organisation in the regions and implements projects under its development programme. In an effort to contain costs, the TUC is

As it stands, the financial package will provide the TUC with an estimated extra income of £750,000 next year, leaving reserves of £400,000 at the end of 1984 and avoiding the prospect of a 1985 deficit.

The report also discloses that membership has fallen so fast that the TUC was obliged to repay to unions £285,000 "overpaid" in the wake of over-optimistic affiliation levels in 1981, and expects to make further repayments of the same kind when the 1982 affiliation figures are corrected.

## Greenham Common women's visit to Russia seeks to 'end paranoia'

By Nicholas Timmins

Thirty women, including founders of the Greenham Common peace camp, are to visit Moscow next month for a 17-day visit to the Soviet Union.

More than £12,000 has been raised by Women for Life on Earth to make the trip possible and Mrs Karmen Cutler, one of the organizers, said yesterday that they had now received confirmation from the official Soviet peace and women's committees that they were expected.

The visit comes after a trip to

## Conviction for 'wrong man' threat

James Burns spent months building up dossiers on the family of the man he believed was his wife's lover, Wood Green Crown Court in north London was told yesterday.

He then harassed the family with hundreds of telephone calls and threatened to murder the man, Mr Michael O'Connor, aged 29. But Burns, father of five, had chosen the wrong man, Mr Charles Byers, for the prosecution, told the court.

It was a friend of Mr O'Connor who was having an affair with Burns's wife. Mr Byers said the dossier compiled by Burns even included copies of birth certificates relating to the O'Connor family.

Burns, aged 55, unemployed, of Percy Road, Isleworth, west London, received an eight-month prison sentence suspended for two years after injury found him guilty of three charges of making threats to murder. The Recorder, Lord Elystan-Morgan, said Burns had conducted a "well planned and carefully executed campaign to wage fear and terror" against the O'Connor family, of Tottenham, north London.

But the judge accepted that Burns had been distraught when his wife walked out on him

plenty of time had been left to allow the women to meet whomever they liked. Mrs Cutler added.

The aim of the visit, she said, was "human contact", to try to overcome the paranoia on both sides "and that starts with personal contact".

"There are all these fears on both sides. In this country there is fear of the Russians and Soviet society and they see us as the aggressive countries of Nato. We want to start at the bottom and get rid of some of these fears by talking."

## Health service and the cuts: 2

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The seven people who manage hospital services in the Bristol and Weston district health authority have decided to come up with new suggestions as to how they can meet their share of the £788,000 cash cut imposed in the Chancellor's spending cuts announced in July.

To meet cuts of that order, on top of the efficiency savings already imposed, would mean cutting major services, the unit managers say. If that is the case, it is up to the district health authority (DHA) to decide as a matter of policy which major services they want to go.

The district management team met aboritorily on Wednesday to try to identify where major services could be cut. Mr Vincent Hamill, the district administrator, says that the fat has already been cut and now they are being asked to cut into the bone.

"It is like trying to walk up an escalator that is going down", he said. "People used to be proud to work in the health service. Now they feel clobbered and wonder where the next cut is coming."

Before the July cuts, and before the manpower targets for this year were communicated at the end of the month, the district had already cut jobs by 114, reduced working hours and closed several wards.

Three wards are closed at the Winsford orthopaedic hospital, which serves the whole of Avon county; one ward at the

Under wraps: The 320ft clock tower at the Palace of Westminster, which houses Big Ben, is taking on the appearance of a giant Meccano kit as renovation work continues inside a cobweb of scaffolding and sheeting. One of the clock faces is virtually obliterated.

The work is the most visible stage of a six-year programme of restoration on the Victorian buildings. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

security. He says Mr Pownall had no answer.

Dr David Burman, consultant paediatrician at the Bristol Children's Hospital and a member of the DMT, says the short-sighted nature of present DHSS policy goes further. The Department is encouraging greater efficiency in bed use, which means faster discharges of patients and closing wards at weekends.

Dr Featherstone's health centre has also experienced a doubling from 6,000 to 12,000 patients seen at its treatment room, where minor operations and casualty work can be done. At the same time, there has been a sharp fall in the patients seen at the casualty department of the Royal Infirmary.

These are just some of the ways in which cuts in health service budgets increase costs in the family practitioner service.

The Bristol and Weston district management team (DMT) is not alone in accusing the Department of Health and Social Security of failing to take account of the interdependence of the various parts of its empire.

Mr Douglas Cook, branch secretary for the National and Local Government Officers Association, put the point directly to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, when the TUC health services committee met him last

month. Mr Cook asked how the department's economic problem would be solved by seeking more health service workers, who would then claim social

Concluded

security. He says Mr Pownall had no answer.

Dr David Burman, consultant paediatrician at the Bristol Children's Hospital and a member of the DMT, says the short-sighted nature of present DHSS policy goes further. The Department is encouraging greater efficiency in bed use, which means faster discharges of patients and closing wards at weekends.

But the most expensive time a patient is in hospital is during the first few days, so admitting more patients and discharging them sooner adds to costs.

Nevertheless, the DMT expects to be able to meet its revised cash limits by re-jigging capital programmes, rationalizing departments that were over-spent last year, and by bringing forward its manpower targets to January 1 instead of April 1 next year.

It is expected to lead to cuts in patient care, which is why the unit managers have abdicated direct responsibility to the health authority.

Mr Paul Barker, whose unit includes the Royal Infirmary, the eye hospital, the radiotherapy centre, and the Dental Hospital, says the cuts are irrational and remove the ability of managers to make decisions.

Changes in policy must be made, he says, by the DHSS in public, so that the damage being done to the health service can be clearly explained.

Concluded

## TUC chiefs approve launch of newspaper

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Trade union leaders decided yesterday by a one-vote margin to go ahead with plans to raise £6.7m to launch a new daily newspaper of the left.

The TUC's "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, voted by 6 to 5 in favour of setting up a top-level committee of union leaders charged with the daunting task of finding the launch capital to challenge the current range of Fleet Street titles with a successor to the long-defunct *Daily Herald*.

The full TUC general council will be recommended tomorrow to put the plan to next month's Trades Union Congress in Blackpool.

The split yesterday was on familiar political lines, with left-wingers predominating in the majority wishing to start up a new paper to reflect the values of the trade unions movement. Moderate union leaders argued that with membership falling and costs rising, they could not afford to invest heavily in such an initiative.

A £28,000 TUC feasibility study carried out by the opposition peer Lord McCarthy has suggested that the labour daily could make a profit if it was contract printed outside Fleet Street and had a minimum of journalists. With a circulation of more than 300,000, it could break even.

If next month's Congress approves the fund-raising scheme, union leaders will be asking more than 100 TUC affiliates for cash to get the paper on to the streets for two years. Capital might come from union funds or from loans guaranteed by the unions' still considerable revenue from subscriptions.

Mr James Lester, MP for Broxtowe, said on the BBC radio *Jimmy Young Programme* that he had found no lack of incentive on the part of young people to work.

He said: "I personally have not felt that incentive effect is not felt by the unemployed and you cannot take it out on the most vulnerable people in our society."

Mr Lester, a former Under-Secretary for Employment, was asked whether he thought there could be a Commons revolt if ministers pushed ahead with the plan.

He said: "Yes, I would have thought that there is a great deal of feeling in the Conservative Party on the backbenches and indeed among ministers, that you cannot take it out on the unemployed and you cannot take it out on the most vulnerable people in our society."

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## Sexual harassment causes physical and mental illness, TUC report says

By Amanda Haigh

Sexual harassment at work is causing women physical and mental illness, lost promotion, forcing them to leave their jobs, and even resulting in their dismissal, according to a TUC guide published today.

The guide, *Sexual Harassment at Work*, says that the stress caused by sexual harassment has been linked to depression and physical illness such as cystitis, headaches, digestive problems, nausea, general physical disability, and lack of resistance to infection.

It urges unions to take issue seriously and join in a campaign to combat it. Many trade unionists had not yet recognized sexual harassment as a serious problem and still regarded it as a "fuss about nothing", the guide says.

Mrs Anne Gibson, secretary of the TUC's women's advisory committee, which compiled the guide as a result of a TUC's women's conference mandate, said: "This problem is much more widespread than anybody had thought".

Individual cases include: a journalist who dreaded going in for the evening shift because of constant unwanted touching and being stopped and trapped

in the locker area; young grievance procedures for the women who had to drop out of an apprenticeship scheme for electricians because of the constant touching, ribbing, innuendos, and sex talk among the men; and office workers whose bosses suggest they might like to stay behind after work or spend a weekend with them.

No precise figures were available, but the harassment of women occurred across the whole spectrum of employment, in both blue and white-collar jobs, she said.

The guide includes the kind of behaviour that must not be tolerated in future: leering, ridicule, embarrassing remarks or jokes, unwelcome comments about dress or appearance, deliberate abuse, the offensive use of pin-ups, pornographic pictures, repeated unwanted physical contact, demands for sexual favours, and physical assaults on workers. Unions would not support members sexually harassing other workers.

The TUC recommends that unions should include a clause in agreements negotiated with employers that would treat sexual harassment as a form of discrimination and would set up speedy and confidential

Sexual Harassment at Work (Publications Dept, TUC, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS. 15p).

## Young prefer building societies

By Lorna Bourke

A survey has revealed that more than half of all teenagers over 16 have building society accounts, even though most are non-taxpayers.

Tax on building society interest is deducted at source and is not reclaimable by non-taxpayers - yet 34 per cent of all children invest in a building society and in the 16 to 19 age group the proportion is 52 per cent.

Nearly 20 per cent of all building society investors are under 25, though they account for only 4 per cent of investments held in societies.

Banks have significantly less appeal to junior investors. Only 10 per cent of the under-fives hold a bank account. The figure is 17 per cent for children aged 10 to 15.

National Savings Bank, probably the most suitable investment for a child, does little better. Only 13 per cent of under-fives have an account.

Overall 57 per cent of adults have a building society account but only 32 per cent save with high street banks - though six out of 10 adults run a bank current account.

Savers in the South-East appear to be more sophisticated and make most use of financial institutions generally. Nearly 20 per cent of all adults in this area also have National Savings Bank accounts of some sort, but the figure is less than 7 per cent in the North.

Wales, which has one of the lowest proportions of building society investors, has the highest incidence of saving with the National Savings Bank - 22 per cent of all adults.

House prices are rising at an annual rate of between 10 and 12 per cent but there is unlikely to be a big price boom, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors says in its latest survey of the residential property published today (Baron Phillips writes).

During the three months to the end of July half the estate agents taking part in the survey report rises of between 1 and 5 per cent. But the institution says there are marked regional variations. Many agents say there have been no price increases. In the Midlands, agents report that prices have levelled off following rises earlier this year.

Demand is still running high among first-time buyers for 1919 terrace houses.

## Tube killing charge men remanded

Three men from north London accused of murdering Mr Peter Clarke, security guard at Belize Park Underground station on Friday were remanded in police custody until Thursday by Highgate magistrate yesterday.

They were: James Browne, aged 22, a street trader, of Herbert Street, Kentish Town; Terence Ellis, aged 43, a taxi driver, of Ewart Grove, Wood Green, and James Killick, aged 18, a delivery man, of Beaumont Walk, Hammersmith.

Det Insp William Griffiths, of the Flying Squad, told the court that the defendants were to be interviewed further.

Mr Clarke, aged 52, who was married with two children, lived in Matlock Road, Ilford, Essex. He worked for PPR Security, which is based in Ilford.

## Marathon field up to 20,000

The number of runners in the London Marathon will be increased from 19,000 to 20,000 next year. Disabled competitors, about whose status there was a dispute with the Greater London Council this year, will start 15 minutes early to prevent bottlenecks.

A computerized system will process applications to avoid queues outside post offices. The race will be on May 13.

## Couple killed

Mr Michael Matthews, aged 25, and his wife Sandra, aged 24, from Wembley, north London, who were married on Saturday, died yesterday after being involved in a collision with a lorry near Dover at the start of their honeymoon.

## Child sex charge

A man aged 35 from Guildford, Surrey, who was charged with having unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl aged seven, was remanded in custody for eight days by Guildford magistrates yesterday.

## £160,000 raid

Jewelry valued at more than £160,000, including a £100,000 gold and diamond necklace, was stolen from the home of an Astro in Old Windsor Berkings on Saturday night, it was disclosed yesterday.

## PC accused

Police Constable Philip Morgan, aged 21, was remanded on bail by Teesside magistrates yesterday accused of indecently assaulting two girls aged 12 and 15 and a woman in Middlesbrough.



Sophie Birdwood (left), the victim of mistaken identity, and Miss Carolyn Herbert, who was at Balmoral.

## Mix-up leaves press little to coo about

By David Hewson

The name of Prince Andrew's latest girl friend - II, indeed he has one - remained a secret last night after a classic Fleet Street case of mistaken identity.

The prince, who is reported to have ended his friendship with Miss Koo Stark, the American actress, spent the weekend at Balmoral with Miss Sophie Birdwood, according to a pack of national

tabloids, led by the *Daily Mirror*, yesterday.

That was news to Miss Birdwood, aged 19, last year's Deb of the Year and daughter of Lord Birdwood - and with good reason. At the time when she was supposed to be spending her time with the third-in-line to the throne, she was, in fact, on holiday.

Miss Birdwood's return to Balmoral yesterday somewhat puzzled to find herself in the

midst of such fuss, provided a double alibi. Not only was it obvious she was out of the

country, but she also was clearly not the person whose photograph appeared in newspaper above her name.

"I am not annoyed", Miss

Birdwood told journalists at Heathrow airport.

While the strength of such

denials may have her halfway down the isle of St Paul's in the eyes of the foreign press,

things were stirring back home. The subject of the photograph identified as initially as Miss Birdwood was now categorically confirmed as Miss Carolyn Herbert, aged 21, the only daughter of Lord Porchester, the Queen's racing manager.

Was she the Prince's new girl friend? Not according to Buckingham Palace, which merely said that Miss Herbert was Prince Andrew's guest

and has a speech impediment.

WPC Terry Micklam, who has been trained to deal with child abuse cases and who is befriending the boy, said: "His state of shock is decreasing now. He is quite a happy little boy, but there are times when he is unhappy and thinks about what happened. He does talk a bit more about what has happened."

Police are also looking for a man seen talking to the boy earlier in the evening of the attack. He is described as between 50 or 60, of slim build, 5ft 9in tall, with grey hair. He was wearing an open neck shirt and check trousers.

## Theatre buyer

Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, is expected to announce today that he is buying the Palace Theatre in Cambridge Circus, which is valued at up to £2m.

## White asbestos risk report challenged

By David Nicholson-Lord

A report being considered today by the Health and Safety Commission seriously underestimates the risk of cancer for those exposed to white asbestos, the type still in general use in Britain, it was claimed yesterday.

The report, written by members of the medical Research Council (MRC), includes Professor Donald Acheson, shortly to become chief medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, calls for a formal ban on new blue and brown asbestos products and the replacement of white asbestos by substitutes.

Its authors said there was an attempt by the Health and Safety Executive, the enforcement arm of the commission, to suppress it when it was published last month.

The MRC report, however, finds little evidence of a link between white asbestos and mesothelioma, a cancer that causes an estimated 400 deaths each year. That finding was challenged yesterday by the Society for the Prevention of Asbestos and Industrial Diseases (Spaid).

According to Spaid which has analysed the research data considered by the MRC, the report bases its conclusions on a sample of only 171 mesothelioma deaths out of a total of 3,957 cited in official figures for the 1968-81 period.

Spaid also says that the

researchers ignored case-history studies, including one made

into 27 mesothelioma patients at Hackney Hospital, north-east London, which appear to indicate that the user of asbestos is more at risk than those working in its manufacture.

Mrs Nancy Tait, secretary of Spaid, said: "This sort of evidence shows that the widespread concern about asbestos in the general environment is justified but the commission is going to say it is not. The report just has not looked at enough evidence to be able to form any conclusion at all."

Professor Acheson said the figure of 171, if accurate, represented deaths where there was good evidence of the type of asbestos exposure. Most did not carry that information on the death certificate.

The debate about the hazards of white asbestos is expected to dominate today's meeting of the commission, which is being viewed as one of the most critical yet on the future use of asbestos by British industry.

One, a boy aged eight, has been in a coma for nine days. There are three other children still detained but making progress. Eighteen others in the West Midlands have suffered the disease during the past five weeks.

Two people in the West Midlands have died from it, a woman aged 59 and a girl aged two, as well as a girl aged nine in Nottingham.

## TV-am's Roland Rat gnaws at BBC ratings

By a Staff Reporter

The antics of the puppet character Roland Rat are continuing to narrow the audience gap between its creators TV-am and the rival BBC *Breakfast Time* programme.

"This may be the first time in history that a rat has come to the aid of a sinking ship", a *Breakfast Time* spokesman said yesterday. In fact, TV-am's fortunes, far from sinking, seem to be on the rise, after the station's disastrous early days.

Last week's audience figures show TV-am reaching audiences of more than one million

during the week before 9am for the first time since it came on air.

The downmarket programming instigated since the palace revolution which ousted Peter Jay, Anna Ford, and Angela Rippon has brought in growing numbers of child viewers during the summer holidays, many of them hooked on Roland Rat.

According to a report from the advertising agency Davidson Pearce, housewives have followed their children to the set. The agency estimates that two thirds of TV-am's viewers are women.

Leading article, page 9

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## The Aquino assassination

Manila (AFP, Reuter) - President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines appeared on government television yesterday to deny responsibility for the assassination of his political opponent, Benigno Aquino. He blamed opposition leaders and foreign reporters for the bad international publicity his regime has received because of the Aquino case.

He appeared with his wife, Imelda, and members of his Cabinet. There had been rumours that he was either dead, seriously ill or in a coma.

Mr Salvador Laurel, president of the 12-party coalition known as the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (Undio), called yesterday for a non-violent campaign for democratic reforms, and said the killing would unite the opposition to the Marcos Government.

"We are resolved we are going to the people and tell them what is going on. We are not just going to talk. We are going to move," he said. He added that it was possible that some of the Government's opponents would "go to the hills".

The Undio statement read by Mr Laurel condemned Mr Aquino's murder as brutal and treacherous, and said that those left behind would continue his struggle to restore human rights



President Marcos: Quelled rumours he was dead

and freedom and to avert revolution.

Mr Aquino returned despite government warnings that there were threats to his life from personal enemies, and that he would be sent back to the military prison from which he was released in 1980, so he could have heart surgery in the United States.

The statement also questioned the "mysterious circumstances" of Mr Aquino's death, and asked how the gunmen, who was immediately killed by security guards, had penetrated airport security.

Mr Laurel said a post-mortem examination showed that Mr Aquino was shot from a

distance of less than 18 inches and that President Marcos should assume "full responsibility" for failing to protect him.

The results showed that the single bullet that passed through the back of Mr Aquino's head and went out through his chin had travelled downwards, yet the alleged assassin was said to be six inches shorter than Mr Aquino. (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The body of the presumed assassin "has mysteriously disappeared" Mr Laurel said.

He said he had received several reports that martial law had been re-imposed by Mr Marcos and called on the President to say whether they were true.

A power failure which paralysed most of Manila yesterday fuelled rumours of violent political unrest after the murder. Government and military authorities appeared later on television to say it had been caused by a break in transmission lines, and to dispel the rumours of bombings, riots and student deaths.

• TAIPEI: Taiwan said yesterday it did not know that Mr Aquino, who arrived in Manila on a China Airlines flight from Taipei, had been in the country. (Reuters reports).

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said there was no record of anyone entering or leaving under the name of Aquino. The Communications Minis-

ter, Mr Lien Chan, said that Mr Aquino must have been travelling under an assumed name without the airline's knowledge.

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### Radical change of mood

## French forces in Chad on 'state one alert'

By Leslie Plummer

French forces in Chad, now believed to number more than 3,500, including technicians and medical teams, have been put on "state one alert" as a further signal to Libya that the French deterrent is serious.

France wants a cooling in the Chad conflict, where the forces of Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader and the former Chadian president, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, are challenging the government of Mr Hissene Habré, the mood at French headquarters in Ndjamena, the capital, has changed radically in the past week towards what has become their biggest operation since Algeria.

Worries about Libya's ability to attack in more than one place simultaneously have contributed to the change in French attitude, as has accumulating evidence of direct Warsaw Pact involvement in Chad at high level.

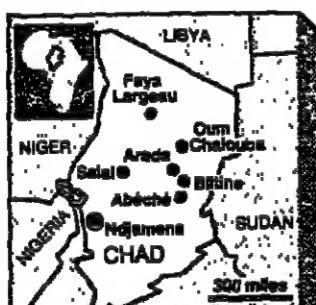
After intensified ground reconnaissance - thought to have extended right into the northern rebel arsenal town of Faya-Largeau - the French conceded that planning by senior Warsaw Pact advisers attached to Libyan forces was probably behind the recent rebel successes.

Though France is reluctant to see the conflict in East-West terms, as the US does, officers do not rule out the possibility that non-Libyans flew some of the Libyan aircraft that bombed Faya-Largeau, which fell to the rebels on August 10.

French intelligence also shows, however, that there is a defensive element in the weapons still being poured into Faya-Largeau by Libya, reinforcing reports that Mr Goukouni fears an attack in the north as much as Mr Habré says he does in the south.

An unconfirmed report in Paris yesterday said the rebel leader held secret talks with French government officials about 10 days ago, possibly in Paris. The French are said to have stated that they support reconciliation between the warring parties, but not the division of Chad, as Colonel Gaddafi might like.

France now feels beleaguered on several fronts in Chad: its contingents in surrounding countries have been reduced to



whose 2,500 troops are aiding the government side (though to what effect is unclear).

French officers believe the Americans are behind Mr Habré's continued calls for a pre-emptive strike against the rebels - something France considers foolhardy - and they suspect the Americans of failing fully to share with them intelligence from Awans surveillance aircraft in the region.

They fear that the American attitude is that the less France knows, the more it will have to commit itself to cover all possibilities.

The French also have a mixed view of Mr Habré: some advisers consider his judgment erratic, while some officers believe he is withholding information from them to try to play off America and France to his advantage.

## Three escape to West

Eisenstadt, Austria (AP) - Three East Germans, including an 11-year-old girl, escaped to the West by crossing the Hungarian-Austrian border on foot in daylight, border officials said yesterday.

Authorities refused to provide names or say exactly how they managed the crossing.

which took place with the help of an East German who had previously fled to the West.

He drove his former wife, aged 31, their daughter and a friend close to the border, then parted with them and officially travelled to Austria at the Schandorf/Checkpoint, near here, to pick them up on the Austrian side.

On Thursday, he will have talks with his own Christian Democratic leadership about the disputed issues in the coalition.

One of these is the question of the Government's austerity policy. Herr Strauss's Government in Bavaria announced recently that it did not accept

## Israel plays the Libya card in Africa

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The provision of access to the extensive intelligence material on Libyan activities in Africa gathered by Mossad, Israel's secret service, has emerged as the strong card in the Begin Government's attempt to resume diplomatic ties with black Africa.

It was learnt yesterday that the main demand made by Libya to resume relations broken off in 1973 was a breakdown of all Israel's classified assessments about Libyan actions and intentions in Africa. Libya pledged to pool material gathered by its own somewhat less efficient intelligence service.

The disclosure was made by Israeli sources only hours before General Samuel Doe, the Liberian President arrived here to begin a four-day state visit, the first by an African head of state since 1971. The occasion was hailed as a

breakthrough in the struggle to assist in the struggle to resist Libyan expansion is now being employed by senior Israeli officials as one of their main weapons in the often clandestine negotiations now under way to persuade all black African states to return their ambassadors to Tel Aviv.

No official information was available about the extent to which the new agreement on intelligence sharing between

It is understood that the

Shells and rockets slammed into the outskirts of Beirut yesterday morning as fighting between Christians and Druze militias in the hills east of the capital developed into a wide-scale battle, engulfing parts of both the Christian and Muslim sectors of the capital.

A rocket, presumably fired from Druze positions in the Israeli-controlled Chouf mountains, narrowly missed General Franco Angioni, the commander of the Italian contingent of the multinational peacekeeping force, when it landed a few yards from his jeep.

The general had been inspecting Italian units stationed in the neighbourhood of Bourj el-Brajneh, not far from Beirut airport. General Angioni sustained slight injuries in the face when the rocket spewed dust and stones over his jeep.

The thud of heavy artillery and mortars could be heard in Beirut all night and early

Both sides accused each other

of initiating the latest round of fighting, which shattered a shaky week-old ceasefire. Major Bennett said it appeared, however, that the Druze had fired the first shot.

In Damascus, the leftist Progressive Socialist Party of Mr Walid Jumblatt, issued a statement accusing Lebanese Army positions around Beirut airport of firing at Druze villages in the Chouf mountains. The statement said that Druze militias would shell the airport and force its closure "if this aggression continues".

The Lebanese Army Command denied the Druze claim, and Major Bennett said there had been no reports of firing from the direction of the airport towards the mountains. Beirut's international airport was reopened last week after shelling from Druze positions had forced its closure for six days.

Meanwhile, Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, flew just before dawn.

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## FASHION

Vivienne Westwood is a by-word for ant-garde London style. Anarchist and artist, she aims to turn ideas on their heads, but she is better known in Europe than back home. Guest writer Georgina Howell talks to the designer who created punk-style, dressed Adam Ant and wants to change the world.

## The shock of the new

Gentle, fervent, scruffy, Vivienne Westwood is the image of an English missionary with a devil-sent vocation – to dress the civilized world in primitive warpaint.

Turning ideas on their heads is her stock in trade. Her aim is "to make the poor look rich and the rich look poor". She is, she says, an anarchist and an artist. "It is an artist's job to wreak violence on a culture to give it new life. In taking from other civilizations I'm just doing what Picasso did when he used Negro sculpture imagery in his painting *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*. He decided that the tradition of the human figure had finally lost its power and that he had to look to emblems of savagery to give it a future."

If Westwood thinks and talks more like a painter than a fashion designer, and sees herself as doing to fashion what artists did to art in the early part of this century, the justification must be the clothes themselves. Are they revolutionary? Do they dress the body in a way different from what we traditionally expect? Do they provoke shock and scorn, followed by acceptance and respect translated into hard cash? Will they enter the vocabulary of fashion and change it forever?

It is appropriate to look at her contribution this year, her twelfth in the business and her fourth in the international arena, as she has just taken a major step in the commercial game by moving her production to Italy. After a decade of *épater la bourgeoisie* in the King's Road, she opened the 1980s with the Pirates collection (as worn by Adam and the Ants) which had a tidal effect on the fashion world and sold right across the age barriers. She went from dressing a street to dressing the world in a single move. She announced: "I wish to declare myself an international and not a provincial designer," gave up showing in London and took her next collection to Paris. "You had to miss Givenchy to see Westwood," a fashion editor told me. "It was worth it." With now two shops in London and showrooms in Paris, Milan and Rome, she has been showing in Paris for three seasons, and her last collection, Witches, provoked £250,000 worth of orders from Italy alone.

"We've always been self-financed," said Vivienne of her partnership with Malcolm McLaren. "We had a tidal effect on the fashion world and sold right across the age barriers. She went from dressing a street to dressing the world in a single move. She announced: "I wish to declare myself an international and not a provincial designer," gave up showing in London and took her next collection to Paris. "You had to miss Givenchy to see Westwood," a fashion editor told me. "It was worth it." With now two shops in London and showrooms in Paris, Milan and Rome, she has been showing in Paris for three seasons, and her last collection, Witches, provoked £250,000 worth of orders from Italy alone.

When she talks about her clothes, Vivienne Westwood uses words like "grand", "strong" and "free" instead of "beautiful". She cuts in the flat rather than the round, like someone doing origami, but in this she is not unique: it's a technique used by Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons, La Maison Bleu and Kenzo.

McLaren, "Suddenly our resources were not sufficient to fulfil the kind of orders I was getting. This country takes no account of talent – the banks won't give you the kind of financial backing you need to make your business international. Italy's different. Here all my bank manager wanted to know was whether I had a house I could mortgage. There they back talent with money and give you everything you need to make a million garments instead of 200".

She will also be doing consultancies and franchises, but has no fear that that might thin down her own collection. "I'm overprogrammed with ideas anyway". While the Westwood/McLaren shop at 430 King's Road turned from Let It Rock to Too Fast to Live, Too Young to Die, to Sex and Seditionaries and currently to World's End, Westwood turned out a stream of clothes and looks unlike anything the fashion world had seen. She picked through time and space and the "untouchable" areas of big city life to give us rubberwear, bondage trousers, "muscle" T shirts from gay gyms, the ripped T shirt (do it yourself), the triple-tongued sneaker ("something steady to rock on"), the Chico hat, the Smurf hat, pirate swagger, graffiti prints in baked ink, duster shoes, bras worn over dresses, rags in braided hair, shorts with big hanging pockets... a cornucopia of images both palatable and unspeakable (the Cambridge rapist T shirt, the court case gay boyswear print) all subversive, classless and undermining the status system of fashion which conventionally "places" the wearer in a social hierarchy.

Her shop was where the Saturday parade down the King's Road stopped and she worked so close to the ground it was impossible to say which was the chicken, which the egg – did the style spring from the street or the shop? Did it matter? Her clothes became a badge for the boy who left school early to live in a London squat and for the heiress determined to stand out in the trade there was shock, there was horror, and there was an overwhelming interest. Joseph Ettingui of the prospering Joseph shop (who stocked the Pirates collection) found himself constantly playing host to designers and buyers from America, "and all they ever wanted to do was to be taken

Outside the wacky World's End shop (left): Ann Witchard wears orange and green cotton knit top, approx £25, and tube skirt £10. Straw mountain hat £20 and rubber sandals £20. David Bracher wears cream cotton knit shorts £10 and top £25. Double-brim hat £10. Mixing the looks along the King's Road (right): Gene Krell knots his own chambray shirt over a grand 1-shirt £25 and knotted-up trousers, rolled to reveal green fluorescent socks (worn in the Tedder Boys). The shockingly pink boxer shorts, "Buffalo Boy", David Bracher works as a sales assistant in Ryman's and swaps his hobo clother for a uniform when he arrives at work. Ann Witchard in bladerunner print skirt and top from this summer's "Punkat" collection.



Looking Westwood: (left) Kim Sion, public relations officer to Vivienne Westwood in brown chalk striped serge jacket £150, serge kilt with rolled "bandage" waist: £120. Marble print shirt £56. Chico hat £20. From the autumn/winter collection "Witches" at World's End, 430 King's Road, SW10 and Nostalgia of Mud, St Christopher's Place, W1. Urban Lifestyle: (right) Maroon sweatshirt jacket, print by New York graffiti artist Keith Haring, £24. Swimsuit tube skirt with baked ink print £44. Linen "Koo" top with fluorescent lime green graffiti £30. Keith Haring scarf £24. Day glo plastic "fire" bracelet, by Ted Muehling. Fashion assistant Christine Paine. Photographs by Suresh Karadia.

Photograph by Russel Maldon

For the last two months up to a collection, Westwood moves out of her sparsely furnished flat in Clapham and into the workshop behind Regent Street. She starts each garment from scratch, pulling cloth around her body and chopping at it from there. She uses an experienced pattern cutter, Mark Tabber, to show her what is generally done before she works out her own approach.

What I'm not trying to do with my clothes is to make a kind of shell that stays in place half an inch away from the body. My clothes are dynamic. They pull and they push and they slightly fall off. There's more to clothes than just comfort. Even if they're not quite comfortable and slip and

have to be readjusted now and again I don't mind, because that's some sort of display and gesture that belongs with the clothes.

A Westwood design fits in an unexpected way. When you wear her clothes you are reminded of your body all the time. It's a difficult fit for factories to get used to, which may explain why her clothes, though very well cut, are not always put together properly. Once the clothes are being produced in Italy, she says, her ambition is to hear customers say how well they are made.

McLaren sees the move to Italy as inevitable. "This island is a third world banana republic with no bananas. It is hard to do well here," he says, "because we are a country of eccentric craftsmen and cottage indus-

tries. The British consider themselves above fashion. If you want to design interesting clothes you must make them in a bedsit and sell them from a market stall, or go and work in a backroom at Dorothy Bis. Neither are Westwood clothes likely to sell in enormous quantities in the United States because there the rich like to look rich."

"In both countries the people who buy our clothes are the dispossessed, the disillusioned, the graphic artists and the liberated mothers." The biggest orders come from Japan and Italy, which he finds appropriate. "Japan was for so long an isolated island that it has never got over its hunger for the status of ideas. Italy is the country of Fellini and the grand gesture. They like to mess around."

At the end of the year Vivienne Westwood will receive one of the fashion industry's highest accolades when, like Jean Muir and Zandra Rhodes before her, she will represent Britain in the Women's Wear Daily Biannual Best of Five event in Tokyo, alongside such names as Calvin Klein of the US, Claude Montana of France and Gianfranco Ferré of Italy.

It seems that she has made a niche in the fashion establishment, and perhaps changed its point of view a little. Will she be able to keep one foot in the street and one in high fashion? If she is still getting her cloths talked about in five years time, she'll have achieved something unique. As anthropologist Ted Polhemus, co-author of *Fashion and Anti-Fashion* put it: "High fashion has undoubtedly gained by admitting Vivienne to their fold. Has street style lost its greatest champion?"



These hand-painted ties are for individualists. Mannequin Buzz (left) wears silk bow £12 from Croft, 35 Dover Street, W1. Scott has a woven tie £16 from Croft. Striped shirt by Perry Ellis, Browns, Braces, Paul Smith. Gene (front) sports silk £11.95, Royal Academy of Arts Gift Shop, Twill shirt £48, Chatlers, South Molton Street, W1. Dummies £160 each from Metro Grand Mannequins, 1-3 Cadogan Road, SW1.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Chutzpah

Naim Atallah of Quarter Books has entered *God Cried* written by Tony Clifton for the £3.00 H. Wingate Prize. What makes this noteworthy is that *God Cried* is a vivid eyewitness indictment of Israel's brutality in last year's siege of Beirut, and that the Wingate prize is for the author of the book that does most to stimulate interest in Jewish affairs. Atallah, a Palestinian patriot, agrees there is scant prospect that Clifton will win "For us it is worthwhile because at least the judges will have to look at the book and see the other point of view", he says.

### Well red

Unseated MPs habitually welcome the chance to catch up on their reading. Tony Benn has arranged to get paid for it as well. He has been signed by Faber to edit its *Radical Reader*, a compilation of writings of the left from the Peasants' Revolt to the present day.

### Goff's gaffe

Martyn Goff, director of the National Book League, has the pleasure this week of seeing one of his novels republished as a classic text. Brilliance Books, a new imprint devoted to homosexual themes, has already republished Gertrude Stein and Jean Cocteau, and on Thursday reissues Goff's *The Younger Director*, which originally appeared in 1961. As a classic, the text is of course unaltered from the hardback original, which is unfortunate because over the intervening years Goff had forgotten that his intended ending to the book was cut by John Pudney, then editorial director at Putnam. Goff had it reinstated for the subsequent paperback, but it is missing again from the new edition. "It is strange how one forgets something that seemed so important at the time", Goff muses.

### Maid to measure

The latest issue of *Broadcast* notes that Thames Television, an equal opportunity employer, now boasts a woman VTR editor, but that inquiries as to her identity were met with sheepish shuffling. "It appears a resident VTR editor underwent a sex change operation. It's a bit of a drastic measure to ensure a quota of women in production..."

• The equality officer of the London freelance branch of the National Union of Journalists is the equally named Michael Ann Mullen.

### Mal de Mel

My colleague Mel Calman has staged an Edinburgh festival exhibition of cartoons from his Workshop gallery in the Assembly Rooms. Sales are so slow that yesterday Calman took to working as a pavement artist outside, with a hat for contributions. By mid-afternoon he had raised all of 37½p.

BARRY FANTONI



### Loned out

Some months ago I acquired on loan an ionizer from a new shop in Battersea, the Ion Age, who suggested that it be sited in the bedroom of an asthma sufferer of my choice. There would be, I was assured, swift and spectacular improvement in the patient's condition. Not so. In fact the device attracted pollutants, depositing them as a grimy film on nearby surfaces, while the wheezing carried on as usual. A fellow asthmatic – a much more severe case who, between trips to his oxygen cylinder, logs his condition – also found the ionizer made no difference. The Asthma Research Council confirms my unofficial findings and reckons ionizers are useless. Hard luck, Ion Age: harder luck still for hopeful asthmatics who might have bought an ionizer, some of which sell for more than £70.

• From the South Lewisham Institute, I note that classes in cookery will be taken by Mrs Delicate, the short Greek cookery by Mrs Economou, and shoe repairs by Mr Amato. Spanish dancing, on the other hand, will be done by Mrs Rumbold, with husband Sid on guitar.

Among the victims of the war in Chad could be two species of antelope, the scimitar-horned oryx and the addax. The Fauna and Flora Preservation Society is Chad-watching with particular concern because an oryx is its quarterly magazine, adopted in 1950 for no better reason than that it was "convenient and attractive".

PHS

# Give the watchdogs more bite

Alex Henney puts the case for American-style regulation of our monopoly services, whether privatized or remaining in the public sector

The electricity industry has just declared a surplus of £332m for 1982/83, pleasing the Treasury but not consumers. In New York last year, the regulatory commission ordered the private gas and electric utilities to return \$104m excess profits to customers. Monopoly services in Britain are publicly owned and rarely give anything back.

It is clear that if we are going to privatize natural monopolies they must be regulated. Ofel has been created to regulate British Telecom, and a debate is in progress on how best it should function. But some form of regulation is also needed for monopolies such as electricity, posts, and water, which are likely to remain public for a long time yet.

Franklin Roosevelt, as Governor of New York State, said that regulatory commissions were to be "the representatives of the people to see that utilities do two things: give service and charge a reasonable rate".

The commissions have a judicial power to determine issues. They base their decisions on federal and state laws, and on their own precedents. When a private American utility wants to increase its tariffs, it has to apply to the commissioners and justify the reasons for the increase in great detail. It has to go through its budget in a process that is similar to a public inquiry (but is under oath). The commission's staff critically analyse the utility's submission and, to assist their analysis, can demand any information.

The commissioners' ruling on an application gives detailed reasons for their decision, which can be challenged in the courts. They may disallow certain expenditures, such as excessive advertising or cost overruns on capital schemes that have been mismanaged, and would definitely disallow losses on activities that are secondary to the utility's main business, such as appliance selling and gas and electrical contracting. Disallowed costs are carried by the shareholders – an incentive for good management – and cannot be passed on to consumers (as happens here, without any explanation).

The rigour and openness of this process in

stark contrast to British practice. In electricity supply, the Generating Board sets its wholesale tariffs (some 80 per cent of the final price to the consumer) in secret discussions with the government and the Electricity Council, and has resisted consultation with the Electricity Consumers Council. As for retail tariffs, the London Electricity Board (and I suspect others are little different) traditionally receives a schedule showing the proposed tariffs, a sales and demand forecast, an explanatory memorandum about fuel costs and government financial targets, and a one-page budget for LEB's operating costs of nearly £200m. With such skimpy documentation, I cannot see how Board members can be satisfied that they are fulfilling their duty to promote the efficient distribution of electricity and avoid tariff discrimination.

The consumer councils have neither the powers nor, with some exceptions, the expertise to scrutinize and challenge industries' performance. In electricity, they typically spend only two or three hours a year considering tariffs, often in closed session, and show little interest in value-for-money audits. The record of government has not been much better. It has frequently been criticized in official reports for failing to monitor nationalized industries; it "asked" them to publish performance indicators in 1967, but did not follow up effectively. The Price Commission was often facile, and it was toothless. The industries, for their part, are unduly secretive and have always resisted external scrutiny.

Times are changing, and the Government is taking a more active interest in efficiency, and in making the industries more open. It has started to set performance targets for

boards, has directed the Monopolies Commission to manage audit them, and is requiring them to publish better indicators. It has made the planning application for the Sizewell B nuclear power station into a major public inquiry.

But we must go further to make public boards more accountable and consumer responsive. We must abolish cosy paternalism in favour of public accountability: public performance monitoring, public scrutiny – and bonuses for managers who perform well. External board members should be given clear statutory responsibilities, including that of operating scrutiny committees, and a fiduciary duty that could be challenged in the courts. The standard required of the industries' external auditors should be raised to that now required of local authority audits, namely to report on matters in the public interest and on value for money in consumer services.

More radically, we should draw upon best American practice and set up utility commissions. They would scrutinize board performance on behalf of Parliament and consumers, and exercise limited powers of direction. They should hear applications for tariff increases in public and have access to documents; disallow expenditures that are not adequately justified; undertake efficiency studies and order boards to discontinue loss-making peripheral activities; direct the form of their reports and accounts; and rule on consumer complaints.

Given the right statutory framework, commissions would distance monopoly services from the government, getting it away from the current minutiae with which it is involved and leaving it to concentrate on major issues. We need to reduce the scope for the slippiness, ambiguities, and confusion that have characterized relations between governments, nationalized industries, and their consumers for the last 30 years and to develop an adequate system of checks and balances.

The author is chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council and a board member of the LEB.

### As the dust of Lebanon settles, diplomatic victories on all fronts

## Israel at last comes in from the cold

In New York last Friday, Avraham Ben-Yosef, the Israeli Defence Ministry's adroit representative in the United States, put his signature to a \$2,700m arms deal which will ensure Israel the delivery of 75 ultra-sophisticated F-16 warplanes.

The little-publicized signing ceremony was significant not only because of the size of the deal – the largest ever negotiated between Israel and the US – but also for its symbolism. At the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, it was viewed as conclusive proof that Israel has shaken off the status of diplomatic pariah which resulted from the war in Lebanon.

Soon after Israeli tanks rumbled north on June 6, 1982, the impending F-16 deal was indefinitely frozen on the instructions of President Reagan. The decision to allow it to proceed was taken in Washington soon after May 17 this year, the day that Israel signed the pact with Lebanon which has proved the key to its escape from diplomatic isolation.

"Although the agreement has never been implemented, or even ratified by the Lebanese government, it was seen around the world as evidence of our good intentions," explained an Israeli official. "The mere fact that we had signed our second pact with an Arab neighbour made a lot of governments look at us in a different light."

In addition to the agreement – which is destined never to come into operation until Syria agrees to leave Lebanon – the departure of reserve General Ariel Sharon from the Defence Ministry, and the ambitions of Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, have also helped the Begin government stage its diplomatic comeback.



This is now being demonstrated with the arrival of Liberian President Samuel K. Doe, the first black African head of state to visit Israel since 1971, two years before 26 African countries broke their diplomatic ties in protest over the Yom Kippur war.

Although the Israelis do not regard the former sergeant as one of Africa's leading statesmen, they see his willingness to travel here with six government ministers and a well-signalled intention to clinch a military deal as evidence that the diplomatic tide in Africa is beginning to turn in their favour.

"One of the factors influencing Liberia's recent decision to resume diplomatic relations was Israel's promise to use its political clout in Washington on President Doe's behalf. It is now hoped that others of the eight black African states which originally indicated they would follow the example set by Zaire just a month before the Lebanon invasion will return their ambassadors before the end of the year.

A few weeks ago, Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, held secret talks in Europe with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the septuagenarian leader of the Ivory Coast, and there have been a string of similar clandestine talks with representatives of the other countries on which Israel is now pinning its hopes in Africa. These include Nigeria, Togo, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Senegal.

Although the markedly improved relations with the US are seen as the most important by-product of the Lebanon agreement, there is also satisfaction at Israel's improved diplomatic standing in Western Europe.

This was most clearly manifested in June when the EEC collectively renounced the irksome sanctions imposed after the invasion of Lebanon, including a prohibition preventing the financially hard-pressed Israeli government securing loans on preferential terms.

Two more concrete examples of Israel's return to favour were the decision of Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany to make what is certain to be a controversial visit to Jerusalem this month and the move by Iberia, the Spanish national airline, to open a direct route to Tel Aviv in July.

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diplomats as a precursor of the opening of full diplomatic ties with Spain. To support their optimism, they cite recent visits by a number of leading Spaniards and the appointment of an unofficial Israeli representative in Madrid.

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Even in Eastern Europe, Israel's diplomacy has scored a success with last week's visit to Bucharest by Mr Shamir and the promise of improved trading ties between Israel and Romania. "Who would have thought that a year to the day since the heaviest bombing of west Beirut, our minister would have been warmly welcomed in a communist capital?", remarked one member of the Israeli party.

Amid the current diplomatic euphoria, Egypt still refuses to return the ambassador withdrawn from Tel Aviv last September. As President Mubarak continues his efforts to reassess Egypt's traditional influence in the Arab world, the Israelis see little chance of what they now describe as "the cold peace". Their one consolation is that they also see no real danger of the Camp David treaty being revoked by Cairo.

Christopher Walker

### Rocking to rule with a Christian superstar

In heaven, a special table must surely be reserved for those who have become the subjects of jaunty musicals and heavy rock operas. Eva Peron and Che Guevara, draft dodgers, deaf-and-dumb pinball players: nobody, it seems, is safe from posthumous trial by noise. For an apparent reason, light clash, guitars throb, lasers lace and grown men dressed in costume ride horses across ice rinks.

Until last weekend King Stephen of Hungary was simply the man who established Christianity in his country. He was crowned on Christmas Day in the year 1000, received the blessing of the Pope and, in due course, was canonized. Later, on his feast day, King Wenceslaus went out and gathered winter fuel, providing useful material for a carol. That was about it: a good pedigree, a decent sort of life.

Now Stephen has become the hero of a rock opera, Hungary's first. *Stephen the King* written by the rock musician Levente Szörényi and the lyricist János Brody, has just been performed for three days in Budapest.

Actress Enikő Tóth provided the love interest and costumers ran up several pairs of tight trousers for King Stephen's stage meeting with the Pope. The show was neither worse nor better than dozens of

similar extravaganzas. Now the whole thing will be recorded at a new studio on the outskirts of the city.

The opera illustrates the competing trends in the official approach to rock music in Eastern Europe. One trend takes its measure from Moscow where the new Andropovian ideological message is protect the young, steer them in "progressive" directions, be vigilant against western decadence, take off your Pink Floyd T-shirts. In Moscow some rock bands – notably The Peddlers – have been banned, others reprimanded for distorting traditional Russian tunes. In Poland, punk bands such as Perfect have been barred from appearing, the group SS-20 has been told to change its name, and lyrics are regularly censored.

The other trend is dictated by economics: hard currency is at a premium and some groups can sell their products abroad. These are tolerated. Even western groups such as Nazareth have been allowed to perform in Hungary – providing that a suitable deal is reached. In the case of Nazareth, the performance – in the Budapest hills – will be filmed, and will feature in an American-Hungarian horror film to be marketed abroad. It is financed by British money.

Independent budget and musicians will be able to choose under which label they want to perform – thus large sign-up contracts are possible as in the West, for popular artists.

In Poland, businessmen have been considering for some time now how a similar scheme could be worked. One idea is that British groups whose reputations are beginning to flag in the West could be brought to the East for relatively cheap tours. Then make a record in Polish studios, which could be sold in the West. This would meet domestic demand and satisfy the current hunger for hard currency.

The best bet for the East European planners is still rock opera. The ideological message can be more closely controlled and, quite simply, the Marxist mind understands bad opera. The years when "socialist realism" set the tone of all performing arts provided a vast and forgettable crop of operas – a favourite metaphor for the building of socialism.

But must all rock operas be set in the distant past? Can we not look forward to a spectacular new show about Stalin's friendship with Trotsky? Can we set the purges to music? Watch this space.

Roger Boyes

## Roger Scruton

# To the Gulag via Helsinki

The purpose of dancing is the dance. The purpose of chatter is the chat. Human life presents countless such social occasions, in which we resource our business, and find pleasure in the present moment alone. All time not spent in dancing or in conversation is wasted time. For these moments contain not the means of human existence but the end. The dancer and the talker are at rest – but actively at rest, rejecting in their social condition, and at one with their fellow men.

The most valuable relations are also those like friendship, which have no further purpose. The opposite of friendship is not hatred but crime. The criminal is the man who prepares, through force, fraud or manipulation, to discount the freedom of the other who stands in his way. He is the true enemy of peace, for he destroys the trust which makes conversation possible.

States are more like people than they are like anything else: they exist by purpose, reason, suffering and joy. And peace between states is also like peace between people. It involves the willing renunciation of power, in the mutual desire, not to do, but to be.

Peace is endangered, therefore, not by the weapons of the peaceful, but by the actions of the purposeful. There exist states, just as there exist people, whose lives are structured by a purpose, and who cannot accept another's freedom as an obstacle to its fulfilment. The overriding aim is so urgent that neither the freedom nor the existence of another people can deflect it.

If the purpose is also international – involving transformations beyond the frontiers of municipal government – then peace has already been put at risk. We know this from Iran and Libya. But we ought also to have known it from the Soviet Union, a state founded upon a consuming international purpose, which has never ceased to impose its preferred political order upon unwilling recipients, whether in its own domains or in the domains of clients and neighbours.

Criminal law exists in order to deter the over-purposeful. But international law, which lacks the supreme coercive power of a sovereign authority, cannot exert any comparable influence. It is obeyed only because states agree to be bound by it. Of course, all states appear to be bound by international law, since there is value in sustaining this appearance. But states with a ruling purpose cannot really be bound: they cannot be bound "in their hearts". For their hearts are ruled by something other than law, something which discredits law whenever it conflicts with the overriding idea.

States which accept international law do so because it is the universal agreement; and to dress it up in the bourgeois trappings of legality: Western eyes were closed for a while to the re-acted build-up of armaments.

Moreover, a brilliant new method was acquired for identifying troublemakers. The brief pretence of legality encouraged the bravest and most courageous to come forward to attempt to secure obedience to this novel law which seemed to grant essential freedoms.

And, for some unaccountable reason, we are still discussing, still attempting even to "renew" this "agreement" that has so endangered us: it is not time that we wake up, sooner or later, some of them, as in every other job in the world except that of the Papacy, will be women. You couldn't imagine a Mammy, but it's perfectly possible to imagine women Fleet Buyers.

The question is, have the manufacturers imagined them? Has it, for instance, occurred to them that almost all car names up till now have been classic examples of male chauvinism? Indeed, the very first one I can remember (having grown up in Coventry in or near which were made, with the exception of Vauxhall and Ford, all British cars, which 98 per cent of British people used to buy) Standard, Alvis, Triumph, Morris, Singer, Riley, Hillman, Humber, with Rover and Austin not far away) was the Hillman Minx. With *Spifire*, the perfect image of woman as a kind of spirited toy.





## THE ARTS

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Galleries: John Russell Taylor visits the new exhibitions

## Visions of a musical maelstrom

## Vienna 1900

National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland

## The Scottish Room Fine Art Society

## Wiener Werkstätte 1903-1932

Mercury Gallery

## Man and Music

Royal Scottish Museum

Though Edinburgh is a festival of the arts very much in the plural, it must be admitted that often in the past Art itself - painting and sculpture and such - has come trailing in towards the rear of the field. Of course, everyone thought it a good idea to have a few interesting exhibitions on at the same time, but their provision seemed on the whole to be left to the good sense and/or commercial instincts of the Scottish Arts Council and the major selling galleries. The results of this *ad hoc* policy were sometimes unexpectedly pleasing, in a vague, scattered sort of way, but it feels like a very long time indeed since the really eye-opening exhibitions which were a great feature of the festival in the Fifties and early Sixties, when we had the definitive Impressionist and Post-Impressionist retrospectives, major tributes to more modern artists like Epstein and unforgettable one-off shows like the 1954 Dali exhibition.

This year there has clearly been a deliberate attempt to restore that particular tradition, by again putting exhibitions at the very centre of the festival's planning. The principal theme

running through the opera, the concerts and even the drama is Vienna at the turn of the century. And, binding it together visually and spiritually, is the show *Vienna 1900*, in the National Museum of Antiquities quite newly acquired and little used. Buildings, across the road from the main building, until September 25.

One might hope, from the prominent positioning of the show, that it would be physically a large one. Unfortunately, there is a slight feeling of disappointment to find that it is not: only four rooms seem very little to evoke a city, a way of life, an atmosphere and a very rich and productive art. But, given this slight caveat, it must be said that Peter Vergo has done a splendid job in putting together this collection of beautiful, suggestive and invariably choice objects. Quite a number of them will be familiar already to those who have had occasion to keep an eye on the London art market in the last two or three years - as grateful acknowledgments to such specialists as Fischer Fine Art.



Costume design for Wotan in 'Walküre' by C. O. Czeschka

moment to silly Richard Strauss with the Decadent strain in art, there is little in his music, apart from a touch of over-ripeness, to recall the *fin de siècle* atmosphere, and the set designs here for the first production of *Rosenkavalier*, like the Wagner designs of the same artist, Alfred Roller, have scarcely a hint of any avant-garde about them.

Clearly artistic Vienna at this time was a small world where everyone knew (though not necessarily approved of) everyone else, and yet these amazing contrasts could still continue to exist. Klimt and Schiele and Kokoschka could live quite successfully in a world where many still thought of Makart as the height of daring modernity and fine artistic taste. If we can carry back to the music and the theatre insights like this, so freshly offered by the *Vienna 1900* show, then during the course of the festival proper we shall be enriched indeed.

Those in search of further enlightenment should not fail to collect also two small but fascinating related shows.

The collection of paintings by Schoenberg, for instance. Though many are faintly aware that Schoenberg, the friend and associate of painters, painted himself and designed settings for his stage works, it has not been easy to see the results of this activity, even in Los Angeles where Schoenberg ended his life. But now we have his portraits of friends such as Berg and Zemlinsky, designs for *Erwartung* and several of his strange, spectral heads, emerging like ectoplasm from smoky indeterminate backgrounds. True, these remain the spare, thin occupation of a man whose real work lay elsewhere. But, even in close comparison with Schiele's portraits of Schoenberg and Webern, they do retain a curious and quite personal quality - you would know at once that they are not by nobody.

The show is admirably conceived in another way: its introductory section does give a very clear idea of the Vienna into which the young revolutionaries of the Secession and the movements which followed it, up to the Blaue Reiter in 1914, burst so dramatically and which continued, though we tend to forget it, to flourish very happily up to the First World War as though the most important Strauss around was still *Johann the Younger*. Indeed, despite the sensation of a road from 1900 to the elegant



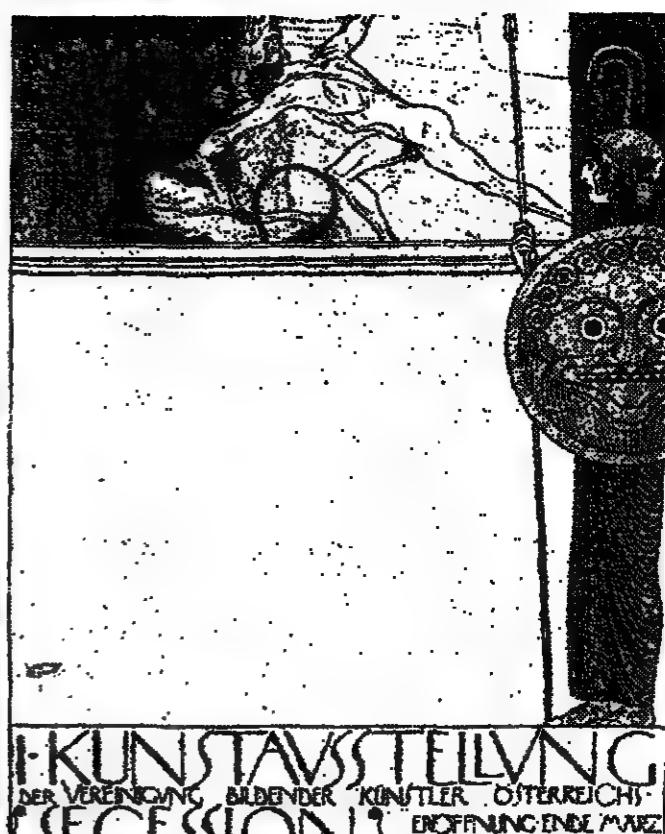
Vienna 1900: Arnold Schoenberg by Richard Gerstl; and Gustav Klimt's poster - before censorship - for the first Secession exhibition, 1896

local forms of Art Deco, with the Mackintosh influence everywhere evident.

The other major festival show also draws our attention, though in a very different way, to the links between the visual arts and music. *Man and Music*, at the Royal Scottish Museum until January 15, at once makes clear the extraordinary riches of the museum's own collection of non-European musical instruments, turns our attention to them as beautiful objects in their own right and then, before we can stop for breath, reminds us that, however beautiful we may think them as sculptural exhibits in a museum case, that is only incidental to their real intention, the making of musical sound. The deviser of the exhibition and in many cases collector of the exhibits, Jean

Jenkins, has also devised a superior example of the suspect audio-visual, which does for once provide an extra dimension by not only letting us know how the instruments sound but also showing us very clearly how they are played, by whom and in what circumstances.

In addition, during the festival, until September 3, there will be a series of concerts in the Museum Lecture Theatre given by original groups of folk and street musicians from all over the world, making the show even more vivid and immediate. Is it for the musically or the visually oriented? Finally, and very satisfactorily, it is for both. Just as the whole festival should be, and this year probably will be, I shall be writing about Edinburgh's further visual delights later.



KUNSTSSEZION DER VEREINIGUNG ALTBENDER KÜNSTLER ÖSTERREICH

EINWÖHNENDEN KUNSTSSEZION

EINW

# What Micro?

The Electron is bound to be compared to the BBC Micro. However it would be better compared to other micros in its price range, the likes of the Spectrum, Oric and Vic 20. There is however no real comparison as the Electron wins on all counts—it has better graphics, a better keyboard, faster and more versatile Basic. We rate the Electron higher than any of its competition. Acorn had better be ready for a rush, there's going to be one.

*What Micro? Sept. '83*

## This micro.



Actual size.

Today, Acorn Computers unveil their new home microcomputer, called the Electron.

And, as you can see, it has already met with critical acclaim in its first independent review from one of Britain's leading computer publications.

This comes as no surprise as Acorn also produce the only other Micro that uses BBC Basic. (This machine is already being selected by over 80% of U.K. Schools under the current Department of Industry scheme.)

You can judge for yourself just how good the £199 Electron is by visiting the Acorn User Show at the Cunard Hotel, Hammersmith, London from August 25th-28th.

We've every confidence that you and "What Micro?" will be in complete agreement.

Acorn Computers Limited, Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4JN.



# Massive new 'banks' deal

THE WEEK

by Roger Woolnough

Changes in the banking community, and the opportunities these open up for more automation, have caused two major US computer companies to form joint ventures with third parties to secure their positions in financial markets.

Burroughs Corporation has signed a £21m joint development and manufacturing agreement with Fortronic, the Scottish company which has specialised in banking and financial computer terminals. Simultaneously, Sperry Corporation announced it is to market the new Ericsson System 2100 branch automation system for financial institutions.

Of the two, the Burroughs-Fortronic deal is the more intriguing. The US company has been serving the financial markets since the end of the last century, and had a turnover in 1982 of \$4.2bn. Fortronic was established only in 1970, and is a minnow by comparison. What does it have to offer the US giant?

"The facts of life are you can't do everything", says Bob King, managing director of Burroughs Machines Ltd, the UK subsidiary. "What we are trying to do here is bring the special skills of two groups of people together."

Key to the agreement is Fortronic's development of an intelligent integrated terminal which sits on the bank counter. Burroughs' approach has been to provide modular terminals, which allow users to build up a range of functions as they need them. Both philosophies are valid, but Burroughs' lack of an integrated terminal of its own left a gap in its product line.

In certain markets, particularly Europe, there is a big demand for an integrated unit, and that is exactly what Fortronic has, explained Clive Bartram of Burroughs. "We are continuing to develop our own modular-type terminals."

Burroughs and Fortronic are not strangers. Since 1981 the two companies have had a marketing agreement on

financial terminals covering Europe and Africa. This has resulted in orders approaching £10m, about 70 per cent exports. But the new deal ranges much wider.

It falls into three parts. Under the first, Burroughs is providing Fortronic with £1m to find design and development of a new generation of intelligent integrated terminals. Ideas and resources will be pooled by engineers from Scotland, England, France, Switzerland and America.

Over the next three years, Burroughs will take delivery of at least 15,000 terminals made at the new Fortronic factory near Dunfermline. This contract is worth at least £20m.

Finally, there will be a continuing collaboration to keep pace with market changes and competition.

Under the deal between Sperry and Ericsson Information Systems of Stockholm, the Swedish company's branch automation system is to be marketed by Sperry as the UFTS 600 in most European countries, Canada, South Africa and South East Asia.

Unlike Fortronic, Ericsson has not taken an integrated approach. The UFTS 600 provides different modules on the bank counter to handle such tasks as customer transactions, computing, communications, passbook printing, and note dispensing.

One thing that all parties are agreed on is that the banking business is changing fast. Sperry says that banks are increasingly subjected to competition not only from other banks, but also from non-banking institutions.

Burroughs' Clive Bartram points out that in America today, Sears Roebuck offers a full range of financial services, including access to cash via automated teller machines. "In tomorrow's world, what will be a bank?" he asks. "It may well be a department store."

That can only be good for the

automation suppliers, who are already facing a boom in my case. During 1984 to 1986, Burroughs estimates, the worldwide cashier terminal market will absorb 547,000 units - and that excludes any newcomers to the money game.

■ A VENTURE which links the travel trade, a young computer company and British Telecom is about to market a hardware and software package which is designed to be equally suitable for the smallest and the largest of travel agents.

Behind the move is Tourism Technology Ltd, which is jointly owned by Future Technology Systems Ltd (FTS), the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), and the Travel Agents' Consortium for Information Technology (TACT). Together they have developed a system which exploits the multi-functional and communications capabilities of the FTS microcomputer. This allows travel agents to use a single piece of equipment for telex, videotext, bookings with tour operators, communications direct to airlines, data processing and word processing.

Now Tourism Technology has appointed Merlin, the British Telecom business products operation, to market the system exclusively in the UK. Over two years, the contract will be worth £25m to FTS and £2m to Tourism Technology.

"This is probably the first time that any trade association such as ABTA has worked so closely with a manufacturer to bring a product which is tailored to its members' needs," says FTS managing director Peter McHugh. "More important, the trade association - and therefore its members - benefit commercially."

McHugh estimates the potential size of the UK market at 15,000 systems with a minimum price of £5,000. This is based on 5,000 ABTA members, with an average of three systems per user. On top of that there are 3,000 non-ABTA travel agents who are likely purchasers.

## JOB SCENE

### Status under attack

By Richard Sharpe

Now that so many non-technical personnel are using computer systems the status of computer professionals is under attack. But changes of status will be fiercely resisted.

In the first place special rates of pay for computer staff are becoming rare as they are merged into general clerical and technical grades.

Second, job turnover has begun to come down, making staff that fit from employer to employer no longer a valued asset; they are now being judged in the same way as other staff with a patchy employment record.

Third, the role of contractors has been firmly established, weakening the subtle blackmail that highly technical personnel in computer departments have used as a weapon to further their careers.

Status has, however, always been a moveable feast in the computer industry. At the beginning, when pioneering systems were built from valve technology and the applications were scientific and technical, programming had low status. Designing the system and keeping it running held the glory while the job of programming was mostly performed by women.

Once men designers realised that programming was half the job of getting new technology working they muscled into the role, turned programming almost into a black art.

Status is often linked to skill in the computer community; it does not always come from the individual's position in the managerial pecking order.

However, while computer hardware is more and more compact and runs faster and faster, full computer systems, the complex combination of hardware and software, do not have the same radical advances in performance. A lot of the speed of the machine is often absorbed by more complex software, written by skilled employees. As a result the highly skilled can seem to be a bottleneck, an impediment to further productivity increases.

The more non-technical personnel use computers, the less need there seems to be, at least on the surface, for the skilled people. All is, however, far from lost for the status conscious computer professional.

Many have realized that the job of educating the new wave of users is so vital that it gives them extra leverage, and therefore status, as they fan out over organizations carrying the word of the coming of the micro computer.

Teams will compete using home computers, and software will be supplied on cassettes for a variety of popular machines. A computer is not essential, but the various tasks will take longer without one. "Here again," say the organizers, "the exercises mirror reality."

Those interested in competing should write to Wendy Smith, The Engineer, 30 Calderwood Street, London, SE18 6OH.

UK Events

Computer Open Day, Dragonfly Hotel, London, September 1, First Homecomputer Fair, Southampton Guildhall, September 6-9, Video, Audio & Computer Show, Bradford Exposition Centre, September 16-18, Home Entertainment Show, Olympia, London, September 17-25, Computer Open Day Exhibition, Central Hotel, Glasgow, September 22, Microcomputers in Business, Warwick University, Coventry, September 27-29, IWP one-day workshop, City Conference Centre, September 29, Personal Computer World Show, Barbican Centre, London, September 29-October 2, Computer Fair, The Sir Frederic Ostrom School, Welwyn Garden City, October 2.

Overseas

Personal Computers & Office Automation Systems Exhibition, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 5-8, Australian Computer Exhibition, Melbourne, Australia, September 13-16, International Peripheral Equipment & Software Exposition, Moscow Centre, Anaheim, USA, September 13-15.

Compiled by Personal Computer News

## People/Ronald Young of Systematics

Alan Howard



### From Tudor to future

Ronald Young lives in the past, the present and the future, all at the same time. His company, the Systematics International Group, occupies a Tudor manor house in the Suffolk town of Haverhill, reputedly given to Anne of Cleves by Henry VIII. "I love Tudor manor houses," says Young, who lives in one.

That takes care of the past. The present is the booming world of microcomputers, for which Systematics supplies a range of packaged business software.

And the future? "We very much believe that the technologies of video, computing and telecommunications will converge," Young says. "We are even thinking of buying a satellite dish."

Originally, Ronald Young was articled to a chartered accountant, but the weekly regime of five nights studying on a £5 pay-packet drove him to banking for a princely £12. In 1966 he switched to programming.

After working for a number of user companies he had the chance to set up a computing services company with a firm of management consultants. A little later, this company acquired a computer bureau specializing in services for manufacturers of agricultural machinery. He developed it to a profitable, if fairly modest, concern. Then the microcomputer arrived.

"I was quite happy with a bureau which was specialised, profitable, and giving us all a

satisfying way of life," Young recalls. "The micro shook us up. The company now makes more profit in one month than it did in a year."

This transition was not achieved easily. In 1980, after five years of profits, Systematics invested heavily in developing a range of business software for microcomputers. It was December 1982 before substantial profits returned, but the investment has paid off.

Young ticks off progress: 2500 software packages sold in 1981, 6400 in 1982, "and we expect to sell well over 10,000 packages this year". From breaking even in 1982, he expects profits of £400,000-plus this year, and is looking for £1m next.

But as much as anything, it is the coming convergence of video, computing and telecoms which intrigues him. "They will all come together into a single information technology very soon. As an organisation specialising in software, we must have an increasing awareness and involvement in all of them."

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## Computer Appointments

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As a young, growth minded company, involved in consulting on high technology computer related products, we are seeking a number of additional marketing consultants to join our professional team.

Based in Ascot, candidates will be responsible for initiating, developing and conducting market research projects covering key developments in the computer industry.

Applicants should be well educated, with experience in marketing and/or market research. This will preferably have been gained within the computer industry. A knowledge of statistical analysis along with excellent communication skills, both oral and written, are essential.

The ability to work on initiative and willingness to travel are a requirement, excellent salary, 4 weeks holiday and scope for rapid advancement will be offered to the right candidates. For further information, phone Ascot (0990) 23377.

(No Agencies please)

## Finding the jobs

### COMPUTER BRIEFING

"On your bike" is being superseded by electronic jobcentres throughout the country are being linked through a computer-based system, so that details of vacancies can be transmitted quickly throughout the network, writes Roger Woolnough.

Last week work began on the seventh and final stage of the project when the first of 150 Jobcentres throughout south-east England was connected to a Perkin-Elmer 3230 supermini-computer in Basingstoke. By November, all the south-east's Jobcentres will be linked electronically to virtually every other Jobcentre in the country.

Known as the Vacancy Circulars and Statistics (VACS) system, it has been introduced over the last five years by the Manpower Services Commission in conjunction with Perkin-Elmer Data Systems. At first, Jobcentres with VACS could communicate only within their own region, but all seven regional computers and a development machine in Sheffield are now being linked over the PEnNet networking system.

When the system is complete, about 750 of the 1000 Jobcentres throughout the country will be able to communicate over British Telecom's packet-switching service.

"This improves our standard of service to potential employees and employers alike, while helping to contain our administrative costs," says John Taylor, head of the MSC's employment service Computer Development Branch.

Business game

Engineers, often criticized as being poor managers, will have the chance to prove otherwise by joining a business game run on computers. The game, called TEMPER (The Engineering Management Exercise), is being sponsored by the Engineering Council, Ashridge Management College and The Engineer magazine. The Department of Trade and Industry has made a software development grant.

The game begins in October, with teams from industry competing against each other and the news.

## Where's the plug?

By Alan Simpson

Far from encouraging user satisfaction, many of the documents with computer industry products are too difficult to understand. Typical are the manuals which say "Unpack, connect to power source and switch on". That the user often does not know his power-transformer unit from his DIN plug or PAL modulator seems to have escaped some instruction writers.

Not surprisingly, a new industry has been created, offering a guided tour round new systems. The Learning to Use book series, for example, supports popular micro models like Apple, BBC Acorn, Dragon, Oric and Pet, and assumes that the user is very much in the beginners' class and requires practical assistance rather than large doses of computer theory and technology.

The suppliers, Newtech Publishing, say they have problems in keeping pace with demand and the rate of introduction of new home computer equipment.

## Is yours an 8 or a 16-bit business?



### PC-8800 Series Personal Computer: £1,501\*

When NEC—component-makers to the computer world—make their own computers, naturally they make them more competitive in price.

And performance.

So whatever the volume of repetitive paperwork in your business, one of NEC's new personal computers will give you a better price/performance than any other system in its price range.

Which you choose—the new NEC PC8800 or the more powerful Advanced Personal Computer—depends on the processing power required and the volume of data you wish to store—up to 20 megabytes on the APC. In either case, each machine gives you access to a wide range of business software, including integrated accounting, word processing, business planning and graphics.

Each machine has too many features to list here. But on the corner of this page, a small strip for you could mean a giant leap for your business.

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## INTERNATIONAL MARKETING MANAGER

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Marketing manager sought for new high quality software programme to be marketed to corporations and financial institutions. Suitable candidates will have current experience in the Marketing side of the Computer Industry. A university degree is essential and languages preferred.

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## RECENT ISSUES

	Cloris	Price	Int'l	Gross	Div	Vid	Yield
Aeronic Group	259 Ord (115a)	126					
Abrocom	100 Ord	102-1					
Brundage	100 Ord	121					
CPU Computer	259 Ord (7a)	153-13					
Cifer 100 Ord (2a)	248						
Geo (Ord 100 Ord)	120						
Gen (Ord 100 Ord)	136-1						
Gilbert House (Inv 100 Ord (7a))	107						
Hammond	245-7						
Paragon Software (Ord 200a)	171						
Real Time Control 50 Ord (200a)	119-1						
SCUSA 50.01 (85a)	63						
Southern Board Leasing 100 Ord (145a)	111						
Telcom for Business (Ord 170a)	111						
Theather Scientific 250 Ord (83a)	152-3						
Tusital Telephone 50 Ord (2a)	160-3						
United Telecom 200 Ord (2a)	160-3						
Issue price in parentheses. * Unlisted Securities. * by tender.							

The stock market entered the second leg of the three-week holiday account hitting a record, despite the seasonal fall in volume.

The FT 30 index began to dip ahead of Wall Street's opening late yesterday afternoon but booming prices in New York reinforced London's move forward and by the close the index had gained 4.7 to 740.4.

The main boost to sentiment resulted from the better-than-expected United States money supply figures, the second good one in a row, and forecasts that United States monetary growth will be back within target over the next two months.

That defused fears of any further rises in United States interest rates, particularly as the American economic recovery is slowing. Some dealers were even talking of significant cuts. This would effectively take the pressure off British rates and rekindles hopes that Britain's clearing banks will be able to hold the 9½ per cent level for longer than expected.

Government stocks came in for some heavy buying, with long-dated issues, some paying

yields of more than 10 per cent, recording gains of 5%.

That gave the government broker the opportunity needed to slip in two "tapiers" totalling £500m. The sale last week of the £800m 10 per cent convertible was sold out so some form of tap was needed.

Leading equities quickly followed gils higher and there were widespread gains of more than 10p. US buying put 10p onto Boots at 185p after that it had received over-the-counter US sales permission for its new pain-killing drug Ibuuprofen while Beecham at 355p was 10p

while Beecham at 355p was 10p

News that British petrol sales

are falling rapidly and the big companies may start cutting prices again soon caused some fresh selling in the oil sector.

BP dropped 6p to 438p while British lost 2p to 248p, despite

reports that the fall in profits, due soon, will not be as bad as expected.

Booming August car sales

helped motor distributors,

Lasme, with profits due today was also hit, dropping 10p to 376p. Shell lost 4p to 630p. Profit-takers moved against the Irish offshore ex-

Riley Leisure's snooker interests are proving to be the main attraction to a potential bidder. The shares at 202p are a whisker under the year's best and despite a denial of any interest from Ludbrooke, the market thinks the company is still vulnerable to brewers Bass and entertainments group Mecca. All of the three big companies have been trying to buy their way into the booming but widely fragmented sport. Riley is the largest British operator with 50 snooker halls.

Explorers quite heavily. Atlantic Resources fell 85p to 380p while the US Eglinon lost 45p

at 200p. London Brick held steady at 185p on hopes that Tarmac or Hanson Trust will step in to buy the company if it does not go ahead with its own bid for Ibstock Johnsons. London

reports profit figures on Thursday, when a statement of intent is expected.

Games maker John Wad-

dington's shares fell 4p to 242p as hopes faded of the group fighting off the unwanted bid from BPCC, whose offer closes today when the level of acceptances should be known.

In insurances, Commercial Union at 170p and Royal Insurance at 560p held steady even though both companies are heavily involved in Texas where a hurricane has caused £1bn worth of damage. Analysts say CU will lose £6.5m and Royal between £5m and £10m.

Whitbread, up 4p at 152p, led brewers higher as the continuing good weather and news of price rises supported the sector.

In the building and construction sector Taylor Woodrow jumped 20p to 550p in anticipation of today's interim figures. Blue Circle, reporting this week gained 7p to 445p but fears of increased competition hitting the profits of SGB Group pushed those shares 12p lower to 144p.

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Also firming ahead of interim figures due this week was Hawley Group at 185p, up 8p and Electro-Protective, 7p

better at 183p.

One stock to lose favour with the speculators was Bellair which slumped 40p to 580p. Majority shareholder Wasson Establishment has still not begun work on its offer document for Harold Ingrams, suspended at 300p, and has not responded to calls for further information about its intended activity for the two minnow companies.

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**Investment and Finance**
**City Editor**  
**Anthony Hilton**

THE TIMES

City Office  
200 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8EZ  
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 740.4 up 4.7  
 FT Guards 79.82 up 0.31  
 FT All Shares 465.67 up 4.85  
 Margins 19.683  
 Investors in US Leaders  
 Index 10.22 down 0.89  
 New York Dow Jones  
 Average (latest) 1,203.46  
 up 9.25  
 Tokyo Stock Exchange  
 Average 9,203.75 up 66.62  
 Hongkong: Hang Seng  
 Index 1,000.23 up 3.95  
 Amsterdam: 153.3 up 1.8  
 Sydney: ASX Index 690.6 up  
 5.9  
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank  
 Index 940.10 down 2.10  
 Brussels: General Index  
 133.25 up 0.16  
 Paris: CAC Index 136 up 1.0  
 Zurich: SKA General 269.1 up 0.4

## CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
 Sterling \$1.5290 up 1.1 cent  
 Index 85.8 up 0.1  
 DM 4.0275 down 0.0075  
 Fr 12.10 down 0.02  
 Yen 371.50 up 1.0  
 Dollar  
 Index 127.5 down 0.7  
 DM 2.6310

NEW YORK LATEST  
 Sterling \$1.5305  
 INTERNATIONAL  
 EC 20.565569  
 SD 20.583788

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
 Bank base rates 9½  
 Finance houses base rate 10  
 Discount market loans week  
 fixed 9½-9  
 3 month Interbank 9½-9¾  
 Euro-currency rates:  
 3 month dollar 10-10½  
 3 month DM 5½-5¾  
 3 month Fr 14½-15½  
 US rates  
 Bank prime rate 11.00  
 Fed funds 9½  
 Treasury long bond 103 29/32-  
 103 27/32

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling  
 Export Finance Scheme IV  
 Average reference rate for  
 interest period 6 July to 2  
 August, 1983 inclusive: 9.989  
 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
 am \$412.25 pm \$421.75  
 close \$424.50 up 57  
 New York latest: \$421.75  
 Krugerrand (per coin):  
 \$436.50-438 (225.25-226.25)  
 Sovereigns (new):  
 \$99.50-100.50 (\$85-85.75)  
 \*Excludes VAT

## TODAY

Interims: American Trust,  
 Copydex, De Beers, Electro-  
 Protective, Fife Indmar, Hong-  
 kong & Shanghai Banking  
 Corporation, George Ingham,  
 Liberty Life Association of  
 Africa, London and Scottish  
 Marine Oil, Prambe, Rentokil,  
 Standard Chartered Bank,  
 Taylor Woodrow.  
 Finalists: Apex Properties, Dura-  
 Mill, Smith Whitworth, Stod-  
 dard Holdings.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

Triplex Foundries, West Brom-  
 wich Motor House, Beeches  
 Road (noon).

Yelverton Investments in  
 which financiers Mr Jim Slater  
 and Mr John Bentley have big  
 shares stakes, has used its  
 option to buy a further 15 per  
 cent of Wordnet information  
 processing system for £150,000.

This takes its stake to 40 per  
 cent and makes the company,  
 which has designed a system  
 that can link eight electric  
 typewriters to a single word  
 processor or small computer;  
 Yelverton's biggest single invest-  
 ment.

Now Wordnet has signed  
 contracts with three big dis-  
 tributors including AES, one of  
 the world's largest word process-  
 ing companies, which have  
 already placed orders for £5m of  
 equipment.

• Linford Holdings is to seek  
 shareholders approval for a  
 name change to Dee Corporation.  
 Frank Dee Supermarkets is  
 part of the group. The board  
 believes the Linford name ties  
 the company to food wholesaling,  
 whereas retailing now  
 accounts for some 75 per cent of  
 its profits.

• Charterhouse Petroleum has  
 agreed to take over the 70 per  
 cent shares in Jubilee Oil it does  
 not already hold. The deal  
 involves Charterhouse issuing  
 up to 3.1 million ordinary  
 shares to Jubilee shareholders,  
 and a further 2.9 million if the  
 first well drilled in the two  
 Jubilee North Sea blocks show  
 significant oil reserves.

• BAYER of West Germany  
 has improved its first half world  
 group pretax to DM560m  
 (£17m) from DM222m in the  
 same period last year.

New company will be fourth biggest grocery retailer

# Gulliver merges food and drink chains into Argyll Group

By Andrew Carnegie

Mr James Gulliver, the Scot  
 who made his name by  
 transforming the Fine Fare  
 supermarket chain in the 1960s,  
 yesterday announced details of  
 a proposed merger between his  
 Argyll Foods group and Amal-  
 gamated Distilled Products, to  
 create a new force in the British  
 food and drinks industry.

The new company, Argyll  
 Group, will have a market  
 capitalization of £250m, annual  
 sales of £1.366m, and forecast  
 pretax profits of £36.5m in the  
 year to March 31 1984.

It brings together 900 Presto,  
 Templetons and Liptons stores  
 owned by Argyll with ADP,  
 which is one of Scotland's last  
 remaining independent whisky  
 producers.

The new group will rank  
 fourth in Britain behind Sainsbury,  
 Tesco and Asda in the  
 food retailing sector and third  
 behind Victoria, Wine and  
 Arthur Cooper in terms of off-  
 licence sales.

Mr Gulliver claimed yester-  
 day that his ultimate ambition

is to beat Sainsbury and become  
 Britain's biggest food retailer.

The merger of Argyll Foods  
 and ADP has been effected  
 through a new holding com-  
 pany, Argyll Group, which was  
 previously called James Gulliver  
 Associates.

The merger will be on the  
 basis of one ordinary share of  
 the new company for every  
 ordinary share in Argyll Foods,  
 and four shares of the new  
 company for every three shares  
 in ADP.

Last night Argyll Foods  
 shares were unchanged at 126p  
 while shares of ADP were down  
 by 3p to 165p.

Third, the deal would pro-  
 vide opportunities for expan-

tion. Mr Gulliver outlined four  
 main reasons for concluding the  
 deal.

First, it would create greater  
 scale in the food and drinks  
 industry at a time when there is  
 growing concentration of mar-  
 ket share in the hands of big  
 corporations, both in Britain  
 and internationally.

Second, it would allow Argyll  
 to diversify in the longer term  
 to avoid the stiff competition  
 which will emerge in food  
 retailing if the big groups  
 continue their rapid expansion.

Third, the deal would pro-  
 vide opportunities for expan-



Gulliver: challenging Sainsbury

in the US through ADP's

Barton Brands drinks business.

Fourth, it would offer impor-  
 tant distribution opportu-  
 nities for ADP, whose liquor  
 brands could be sold through  
 Argyll stores.

Mr Gulliver said he was  
 looking at the possibility of  
 putting some of ADP's Liquor  
 save off-licences into Argyll's  
 Presto stores.

Mr Gulliver said that the  
 continued development of the

Presto stores chain will not be  
 affected by the merger and that  
 20 stores are planned to open  
 next year.

The new group is forecasting  
 pretax profits of £36.5m in the  
 year to March 31, 1984, against  
 combined pretax profits of  
 £28.8m in the 1982/1983  
 financial year. The board  
 promises to recommend a  
 dividend of 4.5p per ordinary  
 share in the new company in  
 the year to March 31, 1984.

Mr Gulliver's personal  
 holding in the new company will  
 be 7.5 million shares, or 3.8 per  
 cent of the total equity.

Mr Gulliver was chairman of  
 the Fine Fare supermarket  
 company at the age of 33. He  
 left in 1973 with a few hundred  
 thousand pounds and bought  
 Oriel Foods for £2m. He sold it  
 after a year for £1m.

He began building a stake in  
 ADP in 1979 and acquired most  
 of the supermarkets in the  
 Argyll Foods chain in a £104m  
 deal with Generale Occidentale  
 in June last year.

Investors' Notebook, page 16

## Call for increased pensions mobility

By Lorain Bourke

The Occupational Pensions  
 Board recommended in 1981  
 that early leavers' pension  
 benefits be uprated by 3 per  
 cent a year in the interval  
 between leaving a pension  
 scheme and retirement age.  
 Referring to this recommenda-  
 tion, the association says:

"We have examined the effect  
 of implementing this recom-  
 mendation on contribution  
 requirements for a significant  
 number of schemes and in most  
 cases the additional contribu-  
 tion requirement has fallen in  
 the range 0.3 per cent to 1 per  
 cent of payroll."

The paper comes after the  
 recent announcement of an  
 urgent review of pensions by the  
 Government.

Mr Norman Fowler, Social  
 Services Secretary, has called  
 for a conference for September  
 14 to discuss pension problems,  
 and representatives from the  
 Confederation of British  
 Industry, the Trades Union Congress  
 and the Centre for Policy  
 Studies will be attending.

The Government is known to  
 be concerned about the effects  
 on job mobility of poor deferred  
 pension benefits and has indi-  
 cated that legislation could be  
 introduced if voluntary solu-  
 tions are not found.

Under existing legislation it is  
 possible for an employee who  
 has worked for a company for  
 up to five years to change jobs  
 and lose all pension entitlements.

The particular cross-subsidy  
 which results in the interest  
 earned on contributions paid  
 during service being applied to  
 reduce company contributions  
 in respect of other members  
 does seem hard to defend."

Mr Richard McCabe, technical  
 analyst at Merrill Lynch, said  
 he found it hard to make  
 the case that the oil stock rally

which results in the interest  
 earned on contributions paid  
 during service being applied to  
 reduce company contributions  
 in respect of other members  
 does seem hard to defend."

After falling overnight in the  
 Far East, it recovered some  
 ground during European trading  
 but closed well below last  
 week's levels.

The dollar fell from  
 DM2.6580 at Friday's close to  
 DM2.6310 yesterday and ended  
 against other currencies.

Mr John Brown, Industrial  
 Average was up 13 points  
 at 1,206 - about the same gain it  
 showed in the first half hour of  
 trading yesterday. Advances  
 were 2 to 1 ahead of losers.

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Privatization - 1: Jonathan Davis on the prospects and problems

## Turning the big guns on the state frontier

In the first four years of Mrs Thatcher's Government, privatization and public sector asset sales raised £2bn for the Treasury. In the next five years, the total could be as much as £10bn, if all goes according to the Government's plan.

This includes an estimated £40m from the planned sale of 31 per cent of the shares in British Telecom, the first tranche of which is scheduled to be offered in the autumn of next year.

The new company will be voting with BP for the title of Britain's largest single quoted company.

It is clear that the Government's privatization programme is now entering a more ambitious phase, both in scale and scope.

Not only are the sums involved becoming larger, but the tentacles of privatization are now spreading for the first time into the "heartland" industries that were the original target of Mrs Thatcher's pledge to "roll back the frontiers of the state".

The Conservative party manifesto at the last election talked of the Government's intention to sell all or part of British Telecom, British Airways, Rolls-Royce, British Steel, British Shipbuilders, BIL and the British Airports Authority.

In terms of assets, numbers employed and strategic influence, these candidates for sell-off dwarf most of those that have gone before.

The Government is also intending to introduce private capital into the National Gas Company; dispose of the North Sea oil assets of British Gas (and possibly later privatize the corporation as a whole); sell off the Royal Ordnance factories and complete the disposal of British Rail's hovercraft and Sealink offshoots.

The electricity supply industry is also coming under scrutiny: the chairman of both the Electricity Council and the Central Electricity Generating Board have been told by the Government to investigate ways of introducing private capital into their operations.

It is no secret that the Prime Minister and her hardline Cabinet supporters were disappointed with the slow progress that was made in her first term with both the sell-off programme and the introduction of competitive and market disciplines into the hard core state industries such as coal, rail and electricity.

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, have made it clear that they want the tempo and range of privatization to be stepped up. This decision was motivated by the Government's well-publicized concern at the need to find ways of mitigating the long-term rise in public spending forecast by both the Treasury and the now disbanded Think Tank.

The sudden package of spending cuts and increased asset sales announced last month by Mr Lawson was hardly the best opening shot for a privatization campaign.

By announcing the sale of another £500m chunk of BP shares - the simplest expedient open to him for meeting his new asset sale target of £1.25bn for this financial year - Mr Lawson has been unable to escape the charge of selling valuable capital assets simply to balance the Government's revenue account. This policy has been described by one nationalized industry as "selling the family silver" to subsidize riotous living.



Lawson: stepping up the tempo

The package has been coolly received in the City and was not wildly popular with many of Mr Lawson's Cabinet colleagues, who resented the maladroit manner in which it was presented.

Nevertheless, the Treasury is pressing ahead with new higher forecasts of the sums to be raised by selling state assets. An ambitious junior Treasury minister, Mr John Moore, has been put in charge of coordinating the privatization proposals put forward by sponsoring departments - which in practice means primarily Transport, Energy and Trade and Industry.

The White Paper on public spending published at Budget time envisaged special sales of assets raising £750m this financial year, £1.5bn next year, and £500m the year after. Apart from this year's revised target of £1.25bn, no other official figures have been given.

But with the British Telecom sale alone expected to raise £4bn (albeit almost certainly spread over three years), the White Paper numbers are clearly too conservative.

Of the other immediate candidates for privatization, British Airways and the oil assets of British Gas, also involve substantial sums.

### Asset sales have been likened to 'selling the family silver'

British Airways will now be ready for privatization by the end of next year, according to Lord King, its chairman. Depending on the way the Government decides to handle its outstanding debts and pension fund liabilities, the corporation - restored to profitability this year - could be valued by the market at anything between £500m and £1bn.

It is likely, however, that the sale will be delayed until the 1985-86 financial year, considering the competition of market funds from the Telecom issue.

The British Gas off-loads disposal was originally scheduled for the end of this financial year, but may now be delayed until next year. The Government has still to decide whether to float the assets as a separate company, or sell them piecemeal to other oil companies. They could fetch between £300m and £500m.

City analysts estimate that the total asset sales proceeds should average £1bn a year from next year, with 1984-85 as the peak year.

The Institute of Directors, which has been pressing the

Government to privatize

the family silver, to subside riotous living.

THE IMMEDIATE CANDIDATES

Govt holding	Form	Timing	Value
BP	Sale of £500m shares	1983/4	£500m
British Gas offfields	Sale issue or sale to oil companies	1983/4	£200-400m
British Telecom	Issue of 51% shares	1984/5	£4,000m
British Airways	Sale of 51 to 100%	1985/6	£500-1,000m
British Shipbuilders	Sale of profitless subsidiaries	next 2 years	£200-300m
British Leyland	Inv. Jaguar, Unipart	next 2 years	£200m
British Airports Authority	Part or whole company or individual airports	1984/5	£400m
British Steel	Industry sale joint ventures	next 3 years	unknown
Royal Ordnance	Undecided	1985/6	£200-400m
Rolls-Royce	Undecided	no time	£1.25bn
British Rail	Sale of Sealink/ hovercraft	1983/4	£100m

## County Bank names chairman

County Bank: Mr John Padavan has been appointed chairman from January 1. Mr John Leighton-Boyce will retire as chairman at the end of the year but will remain on the board. Mr Padavan will be the first executive chairman of the bank. Sir Charles Villiers will be come chief executive and Mr Jonathan Cohen deputy chief executive on January 1.

Baird Qualcast: Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, has become a non-executive director.

W. E. Norton Holdings: Mr P. M. Wigand, Mr L. S. Snyder and Mr E. C. Tarr have been appointed directors.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Company: Mr Stanley Pemberton has been appointed a works director.

Pitch and Company: Mr Colin Wilshire and Mr Michael Howard have joined the board.

Waco Group: Mr E. A. Pryor has appointed deputy chairman.

### APPOINTMENTS

Uniflex Holdings: Mr Malcolm Meredith has become a director. Mr Maurice D. Lazarus has resigned as director and company secretary and Mr Clifford Shattock has been appointed company secretary.

Rank Hovis: Mr P. A. Menzies has been appointed managing director of Rank Hovis and of the RHM Cereals Division. Mr R. C. Loombe, who has been chairman and managing director since 1980, will continue as executive chairman of the cereals division.

CPC (United Kingdom): Mr Antoni Radcliffe has joined the board as a director of finance and administration.

Radio Luxembourg (London): Mr Maurice Vass has become managing director.

Greater London Enterprise Board: Mr Keith Miles has joined the board as director of finance and administration.

Leisure Group: Mr Alan Bradman, deputy chief executive of the BPPC Pre-Press Corporation, has been appointed chairman in place of Mr Robert Maxwell. Mr John Smallwood is to take over as managing director in place of Mr Les Bradman. He is sales director of the Leisure Group.

Gestener: Mr Cyril Green has been appointed managing director of Gestener Manufacturing Limited.

Gartner Booth: Mr J. A. Fooks and Mr T. I. L. Burns are now joint managing directors.

Guildhall Insurance: Mr E. J. Turner, who retires as managing director and manager, reinsurance department, has been appointed company secretary.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 23 1983

BUSINESS NEWS / SPORT

17

David Miller's diary: a sporting scribe at large in a less than sporting world

## Too many skeletons spoil the feast

Friday

A quick phone call to MV Kalouros in Newport, RI, to wish Peter de Savary good luck in winning the last and most round-robin victory needed to guarantee a final head-to-head series against Australia II is decided the America's Cup challenge. As always, he sounds about 15 feet off the ground, supercharged with enthusiasm for his multimillion-pound adventure with Victory '83. For the moment he has the critics on the run, the more so after that recent win over the controversial Ben Lexcen-designed "underboard".

It will be sensational if Victory '83 can defeat the Australians in the last of seven starting this weekend, for whichever boat wins must then have an even chance of defeating the defender selected by the deviously unpredictable New York Yacht Club.

The fact that the veteran Courageous is currently second to the other two American contenders, Liberty and Defender, is clear evidence of the NYYC's cause for anxiety. Non-establishment British yachtsmen pray for the first British victory in 130 years if only to oblige the Royal Yacht Squadron, who cold-shouldered the green, Sir Thomas Lipton, to admit the free-spirited financial speculator behind Victory '83. They can hardly do otherwise should he defend the trophy in British waters on behalf of Royal Sunbeam.

Saturday 1.0

Why is it that Crystal Palace seldom generates atmosphere at afternoon athletics meetings but comes alive at night as a recreation centre, too little a stadium? One year for the old

White City of Kots and Chaitaway. The timing of the European Cup final, one week after the summit meeting in Helsinki, is unfortunate for the British Amateur Athletic Board, though one continually wonders in what the "amateur" is in the title reference.

Not only are they unable to dispose of all the 18,000 seats for the two-day meeting, but there is confusion over the sex eligibility of one of the teams. You can bet those Eastern European officials do not lose their competitors' certificates, certainly not after the post-mortem on an unfortunate Polish lady revealed her organs to be decidedly male. As yet the IAAF have been too busy chattering up the sponsors to get round to exposing the "lady's" achievements from the record books.

Saturday 4.0

Wembley stadium, of course, is still owned by anonymous British Electrical Traction, much to the chagrin of the FA, who, in spite of flogging inflationary-priced England shirts to impudent schoolboys, still cannot afford their own (stadium, not shirt, though at the present rate they should net hand on that).

Arriving in time for the second half of the Charity Shield, with 92,000 lacking in the sunshine, one is confronted by the elegance and heraldic postures which so much of soccer has now forfeited a delightful game. Thanks to Wilkins, the kind of player nowadays almost crushed out of existence, and the ubiquitous Robson, Manchester United dismantle the league champions, Liverpool, and give Joe Fagan's promotions of a long hard winter, Wilkins, and the galloping Graham, a 45,000 "live"

Sunday 1.0

There can be few things better in life than to have 20,000 people slip along to a private party to say "thank you for the memory". White Hart Lane has a fine turnout of those seeking nostalgia at Bill Nicholson's testimonial, at which the old stagers from the sixties,

United fans, yet the authorities blind to the fate of the High Street Odeon, have sold out to television. Are FIFA and the FA really going to let the beauty of the game sink beneath all the fouling and finance?

Saturday 8.00

Dinner with two South Africans, an Afrikaner and a Jew of English descent, who are two of those who passionately believe in the liberalization of their country's racial discrimination, and work diligently to that end - with some success at home but little so far in the international arena. The Afrikaner relates with a smile how, on a trip with a four-man multiracial South African delegation he chose to room with the black man because he was the one who did not snore. The Jew spends much of his own money on underprivileged black sportspersons. There are white South Africans who care and understand.

Sunday 1.00

Back to Crystal Palace, to watch the splendid Peter Elliott putting on another gaudy show in the 800 metres only to have to be satisfied with third place on the run-in. One of these days this fine young runner is going to hold on to his lead for a result to surprise them all; meanwhile he will be promoter-fodder for record bids.

Sunday 4.0

There can be few things better in life than to have 20,000 people slip along to a private party to say "thank you for the memory". White Hart Lane has a fine turnout of those seeking nostalgia at Bill Nicholson's testimonial, at which the old stagers from the sixties,

### YACHTING

## Victory sails into the final trials

By Barry Pickthall

The Peter de Savary-backed Victory '83 made certain of her place in the final trials to select the challenge for the America's Cup by scoring a convincing win over Canada I on Saturday.

The British 12-metre yacht, now known as Alan Bond's Australia II, the pre-series favourite which has now won all but five of her races in this lengthy elimination series which started in June.

Victory '83, her helm again shared by Lawrie Smith and Rodney Patterson led from the start, extending her second advantage over Canada I on the line in the light, shifting five knot breeze that prevailed to 1min 22sec at the first weather mark, and to 1min 55sec by the time she rounded the weather mark on the second beat. As the British yacht went ever further ahead, cheering from the British supporters 2mins 26sec in from her Canadian rival.

Alan Bond's Australia II, which won through to the final elimination series day after day, also won her match on Monday against Azurra, leading

### CHALLENGER SEM-FINALS (not including

RESULTS)

(Match by 1 min 20 sec)

OTHER RESULTS: Australia II beat Azurra

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RESULTS)

(Match by 1 min 20 sec)







# Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

## BBC 1

8.00 *Good Afternoon*, News, headlines, weather, traffic and sports news.

8.30 *Breakfast Time* presented by Frank Bough and Sue Cook.

News from BBC Radio 4 at 8.30, 8.45, 8.50 and 8.55 with headlines on the hour; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; keep fit between 8.45 and 7.00; today's television previewed between 7.15 and 7.30; a review of the morning papers at 7.32 and 8.22; and horoscopes between 8.30 and 8.45.

9.00 *Quadrille of the Wonder Horse*.

The owner and his owner, Ricky, find an injured escaped prisoner. Should they reveal his whereabouts to the sheriff? (r. 9.25) *Justification*.

Rodney Bewes reads part two of *Jeffy, the Burglar's Cat*, by Ursula Morley Williams (r. 9.40) *Will the Wisp and the Flight of Mavis*, with the voices of Kenneth Williams (r. 9.45).

*Take Hart* with Tony Hart and his wife, Peri (r. 10.15) *Close Encounters*.

1.00 *News At Ten* with Richard Whiteman and Vivien Creager.

The weather details come from Michael Fisher (r. 2.27) *Regionals*; London and SE only; *Financial Report*, followed by news headlines with subs (r. 3.00) *Bed on the Beach* (r).

1.45 *Film: The Reluctant Astronaut* (1967) starring Dori Knotz.

Fairground attendant without a head for heights is cajoled into training to be an astronaut. Directed by Edward Montague, former producer of the excellent *Blinko* comedies.

3.15 *Take Another Look*, *Metea*, with a difference are digested this afternoon with a look at how nature has devised different ways of acquiring food. (r. 3.30) *Song of Praise* from Carolean Castle on the Isle of Wight (shown on Sunday), 4.10 *Regionals* news (not London).

4.20 *Play School*, shown earlier on BBC 2, 4.45 *Battle of the Planets* (r. 5.05) *John Craven's Newsround*, 5.10 *Animal Magic* in Hong Kong (r).

5.40 *News with Moira Stuart*, 5.00 *South East Six*.

6.25 *Doctor Who*, Peter Davison in part two of *Kinda* (r).

6.50 *World of Wildlife: The Vanishing Jungle*, a documentary about a forest jungle in Costa Rica, one of the many that are threatened by man. Remarkable photography reveals, among other wonders, the gaudy coloured poisonous frog and the Quetzal, a sacred bird of the Aztecs, once thought to be

7.20 *The Life Presented* by Esther Rantzen. A compilation edition of the consumer affairs programme featuring the most requested items from the last series.

8.10 *The Freddie Starr Showcase*. The last in the series featuring the marvellous entertainer. Among the new groups appearing are Chopper Harris and the Jodles.

8.00 *News with John Humphrys*.

8.25 *Film: Fenianism to Kill* (1975) starring Dirk Bogarde and Ava Gardner. The first showing on British television of this suspense thriller, set in Austria, about a British agent, commissioned to eliminate an East European liberation leader before he returns to his country following a period of exile. Directed by Cyril Frankel.

10.55 *News headlines*.

11.00 *Flamingo Road*. *Constance* starts yet another affair, this time with Michael Tyrone.

11.50 *Weather*.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.8kHz/285m; 108.9kHz/275m; Radio 2: 88.9kHz/453m; 90.9kHz/230m; Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m; VHF 90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/150m; VHF 92.55; LBC 1152kHz/261m VHF 97.3; Capital 154.8kHz/194m VHF 95.4; BBC Radio London 1450kHz/208m; VHF 94.2; World Service 64.8kHz/483m.

## TV-am

8.25 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond; News from Gavin Scott at 8.30, 7.30, 8.35 and 8.40; the twilight world of medicine examined at 8.35 and 8.45; sport at 8.45 and 7.30; a look at the Isle of Wight from 8.50; pop guests, the Moody Blues from 7.00; pop news with Timmy Mallett and guests; Roman Holiday at 7.50; pop video 7.55; a preview of the day's television at 8.35; exercises with Madeline at 8.50; and, from 9.00, *Roland Rat* in Newcastle.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 *Thames News Headlines*, followed by *Seaside Street*, 10.25 *Window in the Ice*. Winter sports with a difference – scuba diving, 10.40 *Taxi News Accelerators*, a documentary that examines the public transport systems of Toronto and Munich and an American's plan to travel between Los Angeles and New York in 34 minutes (r. 11.05) *Verage Up the Bottom of the Sea*. Radiotherapy turns a woman into a werewolf who threatens the Seaweed and her crew (r. 11.50) *Cartoon Time*.

12.00 *Mosquitos*, Adventures of a puppy detective 12.10 *Clouds Like a Story*, Mark Wynter with the tale of *The Little Black Pony*, 12.30 *The Sullivans*.

1.00 *News*, 1.20 *Thames News*, 1.30 *The Comedians*. Non-stop funny stories from a host of stand-up comics (r. 2.00) *A Plus*, Horror writers are the subjects today with *Mavis Nicholson* talking to James Herbert and Elaine Grand with Stephen King.

2.00 *Play: Sidelines*, by Catherine Hayes. Family drama when two sisters meet at the bedside of their dying mother. Starring Frances de la Tour, Gwen Taylor and Anna Wing (r. 3.30) *Superstar Profits*, Catherine Lapine. Coogan talks to American film actress, Sally Long. *Tonight's concert features Big Country*.

2.30 *Big Space*, *A Day Off the Buses*. A documentary that follows drivers and clippies from Putney Bus Garage as they, with their families, take a day trip to Britain's largest pleasure park, Alton Towers in Staffordshire.

3.00 *News summary with subtitles*. 3.30 *Cartoon Victor and Marie*, 4.20 *Hold Tight Fun* and games quiz show, 4.45 *Daren Duran* at their chateau hideaway, 5.15 *Private Benjamin*.

5.45 *News*, 6.00 *Thames News*, 6.35 *Crossroads*, Diana Rutherford lands an unsympathetic ear to a terrified Terry Lawson.

7.00 *The Video Entertainers*. The last show of the series with singer *Barbie Reading* topping the bill.

7.30 *The Streets of San Francisco*. A police Informer is shot and badly injured before he can pass information to Mike Stone about a gang of smugglers (r).

8.30 *Play: Affairs of the Heart*, by Paul Daniell. A comedy about a man recovering from a heart attack. Starring Derek Fowlds and Sarah Badel (see *Choice*).

8.30 *Storyboard*: The Trainer, Al McCowan and Tim Pickett-Smith star in this tale about a senior intelligence officer and his attempts to find out if one of his field agents is a traitor.

10.00 *News followed by Thematics*, news headlines.

10.30 *It's Gaynor – I'm Me*, a documentary about a 30-year-old woman whose face was virtually burnt away following a domestic accident 23 years ago (see *Choice*).

11.20 *Simon and Simon*. The detective brothers become involved in a ticket forgery outfit.

12.25 *Night Thoughts from Quaker*, Harvey Gilman.

Derek Fowlds in *Affairs of the Heart* (TV 8.30 pm)

## BBC 2

8.05 *Open University: Museum of Modern Art*, NY (r. 6.30) 8.30 *Blackmail*, Form and Function.

9.30 *Play: Snowdon to the Sea*, 7.45 *Titanic Three Paintings*, *Closedown* at 8.10.

10.30 *Play School*. For the under-fives, presented by Shealeigh Gibney and Patrick Abercromby.

The story is the traditional King's Handkerchief, read by Brian Cant (r. 10.55) *Closedown*.

5.10 *A Second Chance*, an Open University production in which a former student explains how identity changes in adult life.

5.40 *Elephant Man*, from the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, Bobby Robert Jr demonstrates his skill as an elephant trainer (r).

6.20 *Viking*, The tenth of seven films in which Magnus Magnusson traces the history of the Nordic race. Today he is in Iceland, the closest and most northerly of the Viking homelands.

6.50 *Divided We Stand*, the second programme in the series examining the rise and fall of consensus politics from the 1930s to the present day, concentrates on the post-war Labour Party and its Nationalisation policy.

7.00 *Channel Four News* with headlines at 7.30 and business news at 7.35. Also included is the first of three reports from the British Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Brighton.

7.30 *Comment*. With his view on a matter of topical importance is Times reporter John Witherow, lately back from the battle zone between Iraq and Iran.

8.00 *Brookside*. Sheila Grant is presented with a tricky problem when Maureen Lomax comes round for the Kidney Fund money that Barry took when he stormed out of the house. Meanwhile, Heather has a few searching questions for Roger following his week's disappearance.

8.30 *The Wine Programme*. Programme four of her series and Janice Robinson visits Champagne country where she meets Claude Tattinger; explores the cellars beneath the towns of Reims and Epernay; and admires the Bollinger vineyard. Michael Broadbent reveals the complex and lengthy art of making the most luxurious and expensive of drinks.

9.00 *Film: Sidney Shamus: A Girl's Best Friend* (1931) starring Tony Randall. A sort of romantic comedy about an impoverished homosexual who invites a girl to share his eight roomed flat in order to split the rent and to have someone to talk to. Directed by Russ Mayberry.

10.00 *Top Chefs*, the semifinal of the BBC 2 *Invitation Pairs* Crown Green Bowls Tournament. The holders, Alan Thompson and Bob Hitchin play Brian Porter and Jack Badham. Introduced by Richard Duckett from the Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool, with commentary by Harry Rigby.

10.45 *Open University: Brain and Skill*, 12.00 *Magnetic Fields and Rotations*. Ends at 12.30.

● Gaynor Fairbrother is an extremely brave young woman and the subject of an engrossing documentary, *Gaynor* (TV 10.30 pm). The tragedy of Gaynor began 23 years ago when she was aged eight. Alone in the sitting room of her home she fainted and fell face first into the smouldering ashes on the hearth. Her pretty looks were totally destroyed and she was so severely burnt it was a miracle that she lived. Twenty years on and countless skin-graft operations later she still looked like an actress from a Hammer film with her chances of living a normal life – receding with each day. Then her colleagues at the Shepshed, Leicestershire, packaging factory decided to raise money for Gaynor to have more plastic surgery, this

time privately. From this point the programme follows the progress of Gaynor, who was eventually again treated on the National Health, examinations to the skin-grafting operations at the Biley-Craig hospital. The physical transformation, although not striking, is noticeable. What is clearly evident is the vastly improved colour of Gaynor, who, at the start of her latest treatment, was introverted and apathetic but is now confident, with a mind of her own.

● Actor Paul Denner has turned his talents to writing and the result is a clever comedy about the unfunny business of recovering from a heart attack. *AFFAIRS OF THE HEART* (TV 8.30 pm) stars.

## CHOICE

Derek Fowlds as Peter Bonamy, the unfortunate man whose overprotective nature has turned him into a pedophile.

● Connemara-born playwright Tony Flaherty uses his knowledge of the area and its people for *BEFORE I AM OLD* (Radio 4 3.00 pm). Set in the 1950s, the play concerns a young English writer who goes to Connemara with his wife, spending fishing and farming community, untouched by such modern trappings as electricity or the telephone. The young man's attachment to one of the local girls soon brings him into conflict with the rest of the villagers and it is this tension that brings a rather bitter edge to a sad ending.

● *Actor Paul Denner has turned his talents to writing and the result is a clever comedy about the unfunny business of recovering from a heart attack. AFFAIRS OF THE HEART* (TV 8.30 pm) stars.

## TONIGHT'S PROM

7.30 *Mozart: Serenade in D* (Posthorn), K.320 8.25 *Brumel: Symphony No 1 in C minor*, BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by George Wand, Radio 3 Stereo.

(Suite in D, Op 24), Mozart: *Piano Sonata in A minor*, K.310.

8.00 *News*.

8.05 *Weekend: Composer*: Faure: *Piano Quintet No 1 in D minor*, Op 39 – *Parthenon Quartet* and *La bonne chanson*, Op 61 – by Edouard Durand.

8.10 *News*.

8.15 *Music While You Work*, 12.30 *Gloria*, Hurniford including 2.02 *Sports Desk*.

8.20 *Ed Stewart* including 4.02 *Sports* and 4.02 *Sports Desk*.

8.25 *John Dunn* including 6.45 *Sport* and *Classified Results* 7.26 *Crickets*.

8.30 *John Dunn* with John Marson.

8.35 *Pictures*: Eileen Atkins reads the Katherine Mansfield story, *Concert*, part 2. *Debussy* (String Quartet in G minor).

8.40 *News*.

8.45 *Grieg and Mendelssohn*: The BBC Scottish *SO* play Grieg's *Holger* Suite and Mendelssohn's *Concerto in E major* for two pianos and orchestra.

8.50 *Music* for *Wind*: London Baroque Ensemble, Haydn: *Divertimento in C* and Strauss: *Symphony with Wind Instruments*.

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9.00 *News*.

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9.10 *News*.

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10.00 *News*.

